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RESISTANCE



Something Wonderful: pick of the year's **CDs and movies**

Pages 6/13

Big rate rises on way says CBI

Sarah Ryle and Charlotte Denny

NDUSTRIALISTS last night warned that Brit-ain is heading for a consumer boom that will fuel inflation unless checked by sharp increases in official interest rates.

The uncompromising message from the Confederation of British Industry, the busi-ness group which has traditionally supported the Conservatives, will cause fresh disarray in Tory ranks so close to an election. But an incoming Labour government would immediately feel the pain, forced to raise base rates and introduce tough tax and spending measures soon after taking office.

In its quarterly bulletin the CBI forecasts runaway spend-ing in the retail sector fuelled by Budget income tax cuts and windfall gains as building societies convert to

mine the credibility of Chan-cellor Kenneth Clarke's Bud-get, which has already been unrest. criticised as disappointing the electorate, failing to give Tory backbenchers a pre-election lift and not meeting the Chancellor's claim to have in- and the Bradford & Bingley troduced prudent measures building societies last night which would allow a durable became the latest lenders to

recovery.

As a result of the boom predicted by the CBI the govern-ment of the day would face potentially unsustainable price increases, forcing it to raise interest rates to 7 per

7.29 per cent and the Bradford & Bingley rise to 6.99 per cent.

Mr Clarke has said be will cent at the end of next year. The CBI said this would mean

higher mortgages.
The incoming government would have to squashing the feelgood factor, which relies heavily on the housing market. Last night two more building societies raised

As European finance ministers met in Dublin to discuss keeping economies on track for the single currency through careful monetary and fiscal control, the CBI suggested that without an increase in base rates UK infla-tion would rise beyond the Government's 2.5 per cent

target.
Although the CBI predic-

terest rates to 6.5 per cent by the middle of the year — just after the last date that the Conservatives can go to the

CBI chief economist Kate Barker said: "This forecast reflects our view that despite the overall tightening of fiscal policy in the Budget, the bal-ance of the tax changes will strengthen already robust

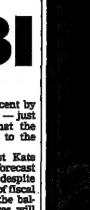
"If consumer spending rises in line with our forecast. this may put upward pressure on underlying inflation over the next two years."
The CBI predicted that

retail spending is set to rise by 4.3 per cent in 1997, which will fuel fears that continued opposition from the Chance lor to base rate rises could spark a return to a 1980s-style

the Bank of England, Eddie

little urgency yet. Following inflation figures which showed the headline and underlying rates un-

tion for growth of 3.1 per cent next year is slightly lower than Mr Clarke's forecast, experts said it could be conmight take the opportunity to trolled only by increasing in- increase their profit margins.



The Chancellor left interes rates on hold at 6 per cent after this week's monthly meeting with the governor of George, and City analysts have warned that a failure to Labour candidate Jeff En

Most mortgage companies have already increased their charges following October's base rate rise. The Woolwich increase their mortgage rates. Nearly a million borrowers will be immediately affected by the Woolwich increase to

monitor inflationary pressure and act early enough to en-sure any rate rise would be small — probably in line with recent 25 basis point increases — but yesterday his Treasury colleague Angela Knight indicated there was

and underlying rates un-changed in November at 2.7 per cent and 3.3 per cent, she said: "We are continuing to achieve the best inflation per-formance in 50 years. Infla-tion in the high street will soon benefit further from fac-tory gate inflation which is at a 30-year low." City analysts, however.



Award chase hands Blair cock-up of the year

BBC catches Labour distorting leader's vote in personality poll

Media Correspondent

BUNGLED attempt by Assour's spin doctors to secure the Today Personality of the Year award for Tony Blair backfired disastrously last night.

The BBC suspended voting in the Today programme's annual poll — and announced that despite the party's efforts to distort the outcome, the Labour leader had still failed to make the six-strong

The BBC said it discovered early yesterday an "organised attempt had been made to distort the annual vote in favour of Tony Blair". A copy of a memorandum had been sent anonymously to the BBC after being found on a Westminster

"We deeply deprecate any attempt to interfere with what is intended to be a spon-taneous opportunity for the programme's listeners to ex-press their point of view."

Listeners to the Radio 4 pro-gramme had been invited to nominate contenders for the award by letter, fax and e-mail. Jon Barton, the pro-gramme's new editor, decided to suspend voting in advance of the intended deadline at

Innchime today.

A BBC spokesman said:

'The top six personalities, who will go forward to the telephone poll, will be announced on Today next

week."
Last night Mr Blair, on a
visit to Dublin, criticised the attempt to secure the award. "I know nothing about this at all, but I think things are better done in the proper way." He later added: "As far as I am aware, it was done by an official acting without any authority. It is not something I would have sanctioned. As soon as we were aware it was being done, it was stopped." Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, said an indi-vidual at Labour headquar-ters had acted on her own

WE KNEW IT WAS PROMEY WHEN JOHN PRESCOTT MOMENTED HIM.

Labour admitted a letter had been sent to about 300 party workers around the country by its audience participation unit at the party's Millbank media centre.

It said the author, Jules Burry, was not at work last night and was unavailable for comment. Her note said the party wanted to "avoid a repeat of last year when John Major won" — even though he actually trailed in second repeat of last year when John
Major won" — even though
he actually trailed in second
place, nearly 5,000 votes be-

hind murdered headteacher | there's anything improper in Philip Lawrence. Mr Blair | that." was fifth, polling 10,000 fewer votes than Mr Major. The note told recipients to

fax nominations to the BBC, preferably on a machine which did not identify the sender as the Labour Party.
The audience participation
unit encourages members to
write letters, to apply for tickets to TV and radio audience shows and reminds staff of telephone votes. It is part of Labour's campaign team headed by election campaign

manager Peter Mandelson and rebuttals chief Brian Labour said it had done nothing wrong "John Major came second last year although his personal popularity rated only 20 per cent. There was obviously a concerted Central Office campaign.

"If the BBC believe nothing like this has ever happened before, they must be naive. The BBC have to face up to the fact that this type of exercise, encouraging people to participate in polls, is not rig-

Willetts to get £8,000 pay-off

ISGRACED minister ISGRACED minister David Willetts, who resigned his job as paymaster general after being savaged by a powerful committee of MPs for his role in the cash for custings of his the cash for questions affair, is to receive an £8,000 tax free

pay-off. His former employers, the Cabinet Office, confirmed yesterday the former minister will receive a quarter of his ministerial salary — £31,125 — in three weeks. The rest of his salary is his MP's parliamentary pay, worth £43,000 a Labour's deputy leader,

John Prescott, who yesterday called on him to resign his parliamentary seat in Havant, Hampshire, said he was shocked that ministers who quit would be paid.

'I have no doubt as he is an honourable man he will be donating this to charity," he

The disclosure of Mr Willetts's payment came as the minister, who had been at-tacked by the Commons standards and privileges commit-tee for dissembling — or effectively lying — to a parliamentary inquiry over his role in the affair, insisted he had no intention of quitting politics.

Cabinet Office rules say that a minister is entitled to a

Mr Willetts's involvement was revealed after the libel case brought by former minis-ter Neil Hamilton and lobbyist lan Greer against the Guardian, collapsed in

Mr Willetts, then a junior whip, had written a memo-randum to fellow whips on the day in October 1994 that the Guardian exposed Mr Hamilton and Tim Smith for accepting cash from Mo-hamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, for asking parliamentary questions in a lobby-ing campaign orchestrated by turn to page 2, column 7

The Guardian

To our readers,

But Mr Major said: "This is

very sad. It is sad for Mr Blair that his staff engaged in mass manipulation of public opin-

ion in an attempt to get a pho-

The BBC said it would take

only a couple of hundred votes to make the shortlist, al-

though last year 77,500 people

took part in the final poll. The winner will be an-

nounced on Boxing Day.

ney result."

Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our distribution in some countries.

We have now installed new transmission equipment at both our overseas print sites - an investment which will ensure a regular and timely distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over

Guardian Newspapers will continue to invest in the future - to make The Guardian International available in as many countries as possible, as early as possible.

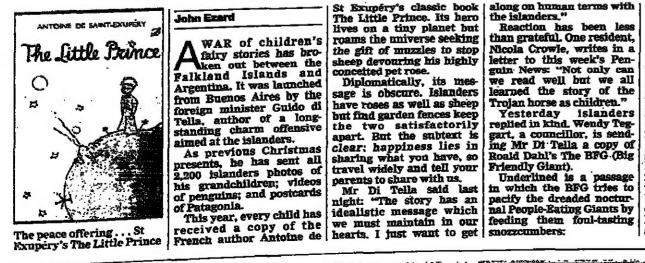
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Europe's Quality Newspaper

Falklands launch fairy-tale war as Big Friendly Giant turns on the charm



John Ezard

WAR of children's MAR of children's fairy stories has broken out between the Falkland Islands and Argentina. It was launched from Buenos Aires by the foreign minister Guido di

St Exupéry's classic book The Little Prince. Its hero lives on a tiny planet but roams the universe seeking the gift of muzzles to stop sheep devouring his highly

concetted pet rose.

Diplomatically, its message is obscure. Islanders have roses as well as sheep but find garden fences keep

along on human terms with Reaction has been less than grateful. One resident, Nicola Crowle, writes in a letter to this week's Pen-guin News: "Not only can we read well but we all learned the story of the

Trojan horse as children."
Yesterday islanders
replied in kind. Wendy Teggart, a councillor, is sending Mr Di Tella a copy of

[beings] is wrong and evil', the BFG said. It is guzzly and glumptious', shouted the Bloodbottler Giant, 'And tonight I is galloning off to Chile to swobble a few human Chile beans . . . I is fed up with the taste of Esquimos. I is very fond indeed of English school-chiddlers. They has a nice inky-booky flavour."

" 'Eating human beans

The passage suggests Argentina — to islanders at least — and a reopening of its Beagle Channel dispute with Chile. Subtext: thanks, but he kind to little people but be kind to little people or BFJM (Big Friendly John Major) will make you eat



The riposte . . . Roald Dahl's The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)

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Inside

John Major won a vote of confidence from Baltera's top al-gir son drops
the Spice Girls, who
said then would
never vite Issoulf.

World News laige nimbersof Rigandan Huma have

ter sjugee cares in tengenatories of beingtorden repatriated like competrote in Zalre.

Jason Leokari will lead an England team forced by injuries formake is langue for the galac will? Agending at Deckerten tonorow.

Radio and TV 16

Sketch

and dissembling



Simon Hoggart

GRAND day for Major-Aisms. But first Harry Greenway (C, Ealing N) nade his big mistake. He asked the Prime Minister to promise he would never "disemble" the British veto in

How the Labour benches cheered! This was because the word "dissemble" was chosen by the Standards and Privileges Committee, after hours of debate, to apply to David "Two Brains" Willetts.

It would be outrageous to suggest that the committee ally meant that Mr Willetts had been "lying", "untruth-ful", "deceptive", "mendacious" or even "fibbling his head off". Heaven forfend.

This was not a euphemism. On the other hand, the committee did decide to rule out now so long, he could use it to clear blocked drains."

John Prescott, deputising for Tony Blair, rose. (Did you hear him on the Today programme yesterday? He was perfectly coherent, but he kept muddling up his plurals. At one he said: "It is up to Mr Willetts to make up his

minds.") Mr Prescott said that future Tory tax promises should be given "on oath" (another reference to the committee's raised eyebrow over Mr Wil-

letts's evidence). The Prime Minister replied with a list of Labour taxes: 33p in the pound when they were last in power, 98p for high earners, and so on. Mr Prescott made a strange gesture, which might have been meant to imply a wind-up gramophone, but then again, might not. The Prime Minister was

deeply annoyed by what teach ers call "dumb insolence". 'It's no good you making silly estures, that is the reality of

He listed all the taxes which, he claims, Labour plans to impose. This mani-

First night

A Midsummer Night's Dream

HERE, asks Jonathan Miller in a rather defensive programme note, is the magic? But it is not

magic that one misses in this reductive, desperately under-

powered production. It is any

attempt to explore, through

language, the power of dream and imagination over reason

It feels more like a jokey

Miller sets the action in the

But why the 1930s? Its world

of Cowardy costumes, tinkling tunes and clipped speech

classical allusion in which one

is to turn the play, totally irrel-evantly, into a class comedy in which the mortal and immor-

glass accents while the minor

fairies and mechanicals are belligerently proletarian. Shakespeare talks of "the

flerce vexation" of a dream.

but instead of the transforming turbulence of dream,

Miller simply gives us an apol ogetic embarrassment with

motion or language. Robert

Swann's Theseus approaches his impatient bride-to-be with halting upper-class reticence.

The lovers, premature Henrys

and Sloanes, tiptoe cautiously round the idea of passion and

emerge totally unscathed. Angela Thorne's Titania delivers

opens no doors to a play of infinitely poetle variety and

character lives under the

threat of death or cloistered incarceration. Its only effect

tal princes speak with cut-

1930s against the background of a multi-layered hall of mir-

rors designed by The Quay

footnote to the play than a

and reality.

realisation of it.

The Almelda, London

Dozing off at the

power of dream

Michael Billington | her great speech about natural disorder as if she were

fest grows longer every time, including the "windfall tax", the "tartan tax" (raised by a Scottish assembly), the "teen-age tax" (no child benefit for over-16s) and something called the London tax, which was new to me. He finished with a flourish.

"Taxes and the Labour Party go together like strawberries He's used this great phrase

efore. To us scholars it is a key text, a Rosetta stone among Majorisms. What makes it uniquely baffling is that strawberries and cream are meant to be nice. Why doesn't he say: "like Burke and Hare", or "vomiting and diarrhoea" or even "ministers and dissimulation"?

Later there was an even more puzzling moment. He was asked to support the cam paign to award the George Cross to Gwen Mayor and Philip Lawrence, the two teachers who died protecting their pupils, and to Lisa Potts rho was badly injured.

It was the perfect chance for a stirring tribute, a little saccharin possibly, but moving too. Instead, the Prime Minister said: "There is a proper mechanism, and it is not for me to comment on that. I am sure that your remarks will be noted in the appropriate quarters.

Henry V: "Follow your spirit; and, upon this charge, Cry 'God for Harry! England

and St George!" "
Sgt Major: "I shall indeed be happy to proceed according to the proper procedures and hone that a satisfactory outcome may be obtained under the regulations defined by the Geneva Convention."

(Regular readers may be interested to hear that I ex-changed words with Michael yesterday. I was in a sort of cordoned-off pedestrian walkway which runs between the House of Lords and a busy road, so that, short of hurling myself under a bus, there was no escape. So I gave an exaggerated wave and said "Greet ings!". He smiled, pulled at his hair, and said: "Don't tug too hard!" What a nice man, I thought, though he hasn't invited me to his disco party in Lichfield this afternoon.)

Live Briefs, by Steve Bell and Simon Hoggari (Methuen), is now widely available in book-

reporting on a rain-soaked fete to the WI, and Norman

Rodway's Oberon coughs ner-

where the wild thyme blows.

Miller implies that he is

to address is the play's eroticism, strangeness and prece

cupation with imaginative

prisingly coarse jokes and a dated notion of theatrical

"Things growing are not ripe until their season", and Jason Watkins's Puck addressing

Oberon as "captain of our fairy band" as if mockingly saying, "Get you, Ada." What puzzles one is why Miller ever chose to do the

play in the first place. Instead of entering willingly into its other-worldly transfiguration

he simply, as a devout ratio-

nalist, patronises it from a great height.

The only really good bit is the Pyramus and Thisbe inter-lude with Peter Bayliss as an aggressively vain Bottom and Toby Jones as a baby-faced

Flute — looking strangely like the Crazy Gang's Charlie Naughton — who obstinately

But a good cast is largely

wasted on a production that treats the play as if it were a

camp version of The Admira

class ineffectualness rather than a study in the transform

ble Crichton, about upper-

refuses to die.

Scottish outbreak second worst ever in world Cabinet committee aims to improve UK food hygiene

Gestures genuine Poison crisis team set up

Alison Danlets

yesterday finally acknowledged the scale of the E. coli outbreak in Lanarkshire by setting up a cabinet committee to see what lessons giene throughout Britain.
The move came as it was officially confirmed that the outbreak, which has killed 11 people, is the second worst ever in the world.

The shadow Scottish Secretary, George Robertson, said: "Clearly, we welcome the fact that the Government appear now to be accepting responsibility for this crisis but why did it take so long to do this?"

weeks after the outbreak egan and will be the third inquiry, with a fatal accident inquiry and an investigation leading Scottish academic, Professor Hugh Pen-nington, already under way. The group, which held its first meeting last night, was

chaired by the Lord President, Tony Newton, and included Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell, Agri-culture Minister Douglas Hogg and an Environment Minister. Ministers from may also be invited to join.
Mr Forsyth, who asked the
Prime Minister to set up the group, had earlier resisted de-

mands for a public inquiry on the grounds that a fatal acci-

same ground

he said the committee had been set up "so that any les-sons which are learned from the experience in Lanarkshire can be applied and im-plemented speedily across the UK as a whole. Bugs do not respect boundaries.

"I have been keeping Cabi-net colleagues informed about share my concerns. Prof Pen-nington will be reporting to

me shortly. The ministerial group is exmade until the group sees Prof Pennington's report. which is due before the end of the year. Mr Forsyth is visit-ing Prof Pennington at his

The meeting came three | dent inquiry would cover the | laboratory in Aberdeen today. | since the outbreak three Mr Robertson said the cred-ibility of any ministerial comquestions about their own handling of the epidemic,

> Reid welcomed any inquiry but questioned the point of what he described as an inhouse investigation. However, Downing Street said the Cabinet committee

had been set up as a reflection of the concern of the Scottish Secretary. 'Our food safety standards are extremely high and we want to keep them up," added a spokesman. Last night the number of those infected remained un-

weeks ago. There are 216 conhospital in the Lanarkshire and Forth Valley health board areas. According to the health boards. 17 of those are giving cause for concern. The number of Scottish fa-

talities equals the number of people who died from the bacteria in Japan this summer. The world's worst E. coli death toll was in Canada in 1885 where 19 people died.
Responding to claims on
Wednesday by Professor
Richard Lacey of Leeds University that the death toll could reach 100, Lanarkshire health board public health consultant Dr Syed Ahem said the worst of the outbreak

However, the Scottish Office issued a fighther warning to local authorities to reexamine outlets supplied by the Wishaw butcher John Barr & Son, whose shop is at the centre of the outbreak. Earlier this week a second butcher, John Mulvaney in New Stevenson, was chesed.

in a further development, lawyers representing John Barr & Son criticised the delay in making available test results from samples of cooked meats taken by environmental health officials

In a statement, solicitor George Moore said the results should have been available within three days but three Barr had heard nothing.



A welcome handshake across the desk of German finance minister Theo Waigel at the start of the European finance ministers meeting in Dublin

Germans dig in over currency policing

John Palmer in Dublin and Michael White in London

vously and lights up when telling Puck that he knows a bank ERMANY last night dug in its heels to insist on tough rules for policing the European single currency as EU leaders gathered for their Dublin meating to waries. being daringly radical by dis-pensing with artificial magic and gossamer fairies; actually every director's been doing that for 30 years. What he fails Dublin meeting to review progress on closer integration.

Britain last night signalled a retreat in its battle with the EU over the cull of up to 125,000 BSE-infected cattle — a Instead he falls back on sur move which could ease the EU ban on Northern Irish beef camp; Angus Wright's Lysan-der, for instance, implying an erection as he tells Helena and shore up Ulster Unionist support for John Major.

drew Treasury objections to spending £200 million on culling older cattle at risk from ers themselves in the next 48 BSE, the road was opened for agriculture ministers to resume the cull, designed to restore consumer confidence, which was agreed at the EU nummit in June

In Dublin, EU finance ministers were struggling against the clock to agree the final crucial details of the planned single currency before the start of the heads of government summit this morning. German reluctance to compromise over the precise rules for the "stability part"

After Kenneth Clarke with- which would underpin it, hole for minor concessions. rew Treasury objections to may lead to the whole issue "We will maintain the veto, pending \$200 million on cull- being passed to the EU lead- and, as I've indicated to the hours.

Regardless of the outcome the European Monetary Institute — foreunner of the planned European Central Bank — will today unveil examples of new Euro notes in simultaneous ceremonies in Dublin and Frankfurt.

The British retreat over the BSE cull came as John Major told MPs at Westminster it would be "unacceptable" if Britain gave up its national made clear he still demanded tougher conditions than other though he left himself a loop.

House before, I see no significant case for an extension of qualified majority voting," he

Yesterday's pre-summit manoeuvres found Germany, not Britain, at bay. Although the Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, said he was confident there would be a stability pact agreement — designed to en-force strict monetary discipline on euro states - his finance minister. Theo Waigel.

which pits Germany and Holland against the Commission and all the other EU governments, are the circumstances which might allow budget dissingle currency country fac-ing serious economic difficul-ties. The majority want the final decision to be taken by the Council of Ministers rather than decided simply by

a statistical definition of a severe recession.

Mr Waigel — the author of the stability pact — insists there must be clear penalties for EMU members who over-step budget deficit limits and

"verifiable definitions" for any exceptions to this rule. "I will not move away from the clear stability goal," he said.
"Exceptions because of natural catastrophes or a strong economic downturn that justify going over the 3 per cent limit must be defined as nar-

rowly as possible." But in a striking difference of tone Chancellor Kohl de-clared: "I am confident we will find a solution that will show all citizens the determination of the European Union to create a euro with long-term stability."

Channel 4 to spend a night on sport Willetts to get £8,000 pay-off

Round-the-clock station to host first fans' forum on TV. Nick Varley reports

HANNEL 4 is to intro-duce all-night sports zine, it will feature phone-programming in the ins from fans. Guests will duce all-night sports programming in the new year in its switch to 24hour television. Once a week its schedule,

generally a haven for non-sports fans, will be devoted to a mixture of discussion and reports of sport. The action will maintain the channel's stance of concentrating less on mainstream

The first television version of a fans' forum show, like Radio 5's popular 606, will also be aired as the anchor of the broadcasts.
Fronted by Danny Kelly,

One possible stambling block for Under The Moon, discuss sporting topics, fol-lowed by full matches from the mainstay of the night, will be lack of access to top the climax of the American

flight action. Rupert Murdoch's satel-lite channel Sky owns the rights to much top flight sport, such as league foot-ball, rugby league and one-day cricket. football season and, more regularly, basketball, also A Channel 4 spokesman said the weekly sports strand should not alienate non-fan viewers. "We are

But Carolyn Smyth, pro-ducer of the Channel 4 show, said: "There are other ways of dealing with

over to sport is not depriving viewers when they will have so many other pro-

grammes to choose from. It will cater for an audience with a special interest without knocking key programmes out of the schedule."

that's what everyone else does. Of course, if there is a major sport story on the night—a disaster or a resignation—we will be able just to go off on that." The sports theme, on

> other nights a range of pro-grammes will be shown, often with one-off themes. Its introduction comes after an eight-week run of similar night sports pro-gramming, which will also feature a call-in earlier in the year.

The Channel 4 spokes man said: "There are a lot of people out there who do

continued from page 1 Mr Greet. In the m tried to smother a parliamentary inquiry being set up to investigate the matter by Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, then chairman of the now defunct members' interest committee. His explanation to MPs in-vestigating the affair over the

Wednesdays, will be preceded by a regular film last two months was unaninight on Tuesdays. On mously dismissed by the commously dismissed by the committee as largely inaccurate.
Dismissing the call to resign his seat, Mr Willetts said: "I hope to represent Havant for many years to come. I am very pleased and very touched by their loyalty and their confidence.

"There's more to life than

There's more to life than politics, and an episode like this reminds you of the importance of the rest of life. But it hasn't affected my apfamily Christmas and then in the new year I will be an active backbencher. I will think and take stock."

Next week the Commons committee investigating the affair will meet to discuss its next move. The meeting in private will decide whether to call Andrew Mitchell, a the affair, who sat on Sir Geoffrey's committee as a

government whip.

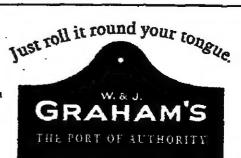
Dale Campbell-Savours, a Labour member of the standards and privileges commit-tee. attacked Mr Mitchell for his involvement in the affair. suggesting that he was part of an organised attempt to suppress the inquiry into whether Mr Hamilton had broken the rules in accepting cash and not registering a owned by Mr Al Fayed.

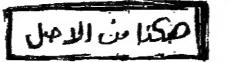
GRRR AHA MMM'S PORT

from the US.

offering a range of material through the night on other nights," he said.

"I think to give one night





This year's list of the world's most powerful film directors features several unfamiliar names, but Tom Hanks still leads the stars. Dan Glaister

reports



\$702 million (Independence Day)

Cut! How directors make silver screen gold

ARTIN Scoresee isn't on the list, he acts, he directs, he proleading to the list, he acts, he directs, he proleading to the list, he wins Oscars is there no stoapling Tom
lanks? He is confirmed as the world's most powerful director. There's no room for oliver Stone or critics' dar takings for his last three films. as for Quentin Tarantino, for-

instead, the latest ranking of the world's most powerful film directors, published by the trade magazine Screen international, features such un-familiar names as Roland Emmerich, Jan de Bont, Tom Shadyac and Joe Johnston. Roland Emmerich? His

Day has taken \$702 million (£470 million) worldwide, be-coming one of only six films with gross US box office tak-ings of more than \$300 million. Jan de Bont brought the world the special effects epic Twister, while Joe Johnston directed the Robin Williams children's film Jumanji. Tom Shadyac directed the Eddle Murphy film The Nutty Pro-fessor, which has taken \$12 million in the UK alone. Once again the auteurs

have lost out to the hired hands. The only familiar name is Brian De Palma, at number three for Mission Imossible, produced by and starting Tom Cruise

There are a lot of commercials directors who have been hired to do big blockbuster movies," said Screen International's features editor Mike Goodridge. "It is a big turnround for De Palma because le was considered poison fter Bonfire of the Vanities."
For the top actors, the quesaround for De Palma because he was considered polson after Bonfire of the Vanities."

be different next year when his disappointing directorial debut, That Thing You Do, is

Based on the gross box office takings for the last three films made, Hanks stays shead of Cruise and Brad Pitt. Behind the top three come two elder statesmen of the movies, Harrison Ford and

taken into account.

Arnold Schwarzenegger.
Once again there are no women in the top 10. The big surprise is that singer-turned-actress Whitney Houston is the first woman, at number 11, ahead of more familiar Hollywood players Jodie Foster at number 15 and Michelle

Pfeiffer at number 18.

The star rankings also con-firm the decline of the British. The only British actor to make the top 20 is Sean Con-nery, at number 9, who proved his box-office durabil-ity with The Rock, which has taken \$336 million worldwide. But the real wielders of power in Hollywood are the studios. At the top of the heap compiled by Screen Interna-tional this year is Walt Dis-ney, whose latest release, 101 Dalmatians, took almost \$50 million in two weeks in the US. This strong showing, almost certainly echoed in this



TOPACTOR: TOM HANKS Box office (last three films):
 Forrest Gump \$678million; Apollo 13 \$334 million; Philadel-

cent share of the market.

The list of the top 30 UK producers is an indication, says Goodridge of how influential a person's name is in getting a film made. At the top is the Channel 4 team, confirming its impor-tance in British film-making.

Stewart Till of Polygram is at number two, followed by Rank and BBC Films. The first glimmerings of British star power emerge way down at number 25 with the names Hugh Grant and Elizabeth Hurley. They are followed at number 26 by Ken-



O What they say: "People relate to me as a regular

ahead of Warner Brothers with 16.2 and 20th Century Fox with 12.8. The 36 films released by Disney in the past year brought in a combined US gross figure of just over \$1,000 million.

neth Bransgh, Emma Thomp-son at number 28 and Ewan McGregor at number 30.



DISMEY CO ● Box-office: \$1,007,221,152 million (including 101 Dalms-

What they say: "I love Mickey Mouse more than any

Disney president 'set to quit'

/ ICHABL OVITZ. once Hollywood's top talent scout, is on the verge of quitting Dis-ney's Magic Kingdom only a year after his surprise appointment as president of the entertainment giant.

Disney yesterday maintained a stony silence about reports widespread in the United States that an "ex-tremely unhappy" Mr Ovitz is about to leave the firm after clashes with the chairman, Michael Eisner. Speculation has been for elled by sightings of Mr Ovitz at the New York adquarters of the entertainment company Viacom, which owns Paramount

President Michael Ovitz (left) and chairman Michael Eisner

and by reports that he has held discussions with Sony. But a Sony official, Peter Wilkes, said yesterday: "There are no plans to hire Mr Ovitz for a position at

Sony. These reports have no basis in fact." It is still unclear whether

campaign on his part to sestbilities at the company.

Despite protestations from
Mr Eisner and Mr Ovitz, it is well known that the former well known that the former chairman of Creative Art-ists' Agency, Hollywood's leading talent agency, has been frustrated at Disney. Their joint appearance on CNN's Larry King Live in September failed to scotch

rumours of a rift.
Should Mr Ovitz walk
away, his departure could be expensive for Disney. In addition to a salary of \$1 million (£600,000) and a discretionary annual bonus, Mr Ovitz is slated to receive options to buy 5 million shares of Disney stock in a package valued which owns Paramount Mr Ovitz will leave Disney, stock in a package value film studio and Block- and the reports could be at more than \$75 million.

IRA killing offensive thwarted

Opening of

HE IRA has embarked on a new killing offensive directed against the security forces, it when police thwarted a mortar attack in north Belfast.

Fears that the IRA is to mount its first Christmas campaign for three years in Northern Ireland rose last wight after a series of electers. northern relaind rose last night after a series of alerts and warnings.

An IRA Mk16 mortar packed with Semtex was found in an alleyway in north Belfast yesterday. Three simi-

house in Republican west Bel-fast last week. Two weeks ago 2,500lbs of explosives were made safe half a mile from Drumadd army barracks in Portadown, Co Armagh,

The Mk16 mortar was set up in a wheelie-bin pointing out onto the street, ready to hit a Land-Rover leaving the nearby Girdwood army bar-racks in the city's Antrim Road area, the RUC said. It had been lodged in sand with the end protruding out

of a hole in the side of the bin.
It is thought that the IRA
abandoned the planned attack
after a tip-off to police. Security sources revealed

that a battery pack needed to detonate the device was missing when they found the mortar at the back of a house close to the one of Belfast's largest military sites.
A bogus call was made to

police in an attempt to lure them into the area. It is be-lieved the IRA members wait-

made a run for it once a second call warning police from responding. Supt Stephen White said

the moriar would have been aimed at the side of passing patrol vehicles. It would have exploded inside the vehicle or ripped straight through and

into houses.

Several families had to stay away from their homes all night because of the alert. At one stage part of the Antrim Road was sealed off.

The discovery of the mortar appears to confirm forestart.

appears to confirm fears that the Provisionals are determined to demonstrate their killing capacity in the run-up to Christmas and have writ-ten off the peace process until after a general election. Secu-rity sources say the Provi-sionals are involved in a sus-tained campaign of targeting individual officers and VIPs. In Dublin the Labour leader

Tony Blair rejected an accu-sation that he was being dis-loyal to his Church of Eng-land faith by having a Catholic wife. Catholic wife. Mr Blair, who met the Irish President Mary Robinson be

fresteen wary koomson be-fore today's tour of Northern Ireland, said he was "not treating too seriously" the claim by Ulster's Orange Order grand master Robert Saulters. my wife because I love her. I

think these religious differences, whether you are a Catholic or a Protestant, don't actually matter. What is important is how people are trying to work hard for peace."

Mr Blair will also meet the
Ulster Unionist leader David
Trimble and the SDLP deputy

Mentally ill killer may make claim

CLAIM for damages by Christopher Clunis, the mentally ill man who ahead after a judge yesterday rejected a health authority's attempt to block it.

The ruling was welcomed by the victim's widow, Jayne Zito, because success for Mr. Clunis would mean that he, in turn, could pay damages. Mr Clunis, a schizophrenic, stabbed to death Jonathan

Zito at Finsbury Park tube station in north London in 1992. He is claiming damages for negligence on the part of Camden and Islington health authority in leaving him in the community when he was seriously ill. The authority includes the

former Hampstead authority which ran the now-closed Friern Barnet hospital, where doctors had responsibility for Mr Clunis as an out-patient. Camden and Islington yesterday asked the High Court to throw out the action by 33year-old Mr Clunis, who is detained indefinitely at Ramp-

ton top security hospital, Nottinghamshire, on grounds that he was seeking to benefit from an unlawful act.

However, Deputy Judge Richard Mawrey, QC, said the authority accepted it did have a duty of care to Mr Clunis a duty he claimed had been breached — and it was established in law that a health aumental patient harmed



Christopher Chmis . . . will in turn be able to compensate

ence if the harm to the patient derives from the commission of a criminal offence by the patient?" the judge asked. Martin Taube, Mr Clunis's solicitor, said later his client

merited substantial damages for his distress over what happened when he was wrongly left in the commu-nity. He also needed to be able to compensate Mrs Zito.

"It is right and proper that she should be compensated if he is successful. The public would be shocked if she was not," Mr Taube said.

Mrs Zito issued a claim against Mr Clunis a year ago when he first sued for damages. Her legal advice is that she cannot herself bring an action against the authority. Camden and Islington was given leave to appeal, which is likely to delay the case for

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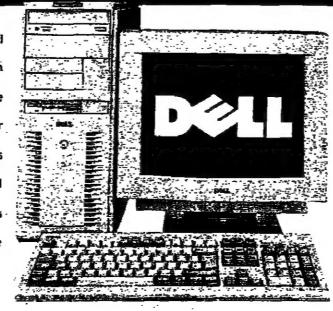


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olicin

Tory

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The Spice Girls,

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and Aitken, Tony Mortimer of

(in the 70s)

Labour

Gary Numan, Phil

East 17, Paul Weller

Police alert elderly after sex killing

Martyn Halsall

OLICE investigating the fatal stabbing of a widow aged 74 in a sex attack at her home have warned elderly people in an affluent area of Merseyside to be on their

guard.
Police said Alice Rye, a reg-ular churchgoer involved in the Women's Institute, had been stabbed through the heart. She was found by neighbours on Wednesday morning with her hands tied with blue rope and her cloth-ing raised above her waist.

Detective Superintendent Geoff Harrison, leading a team of 70 detectives in the murder hunt, said yesterday: "It was a very nasty murder, and it was probably sexually motivated. She suffered vi-

"The house was not ransacked and there was no forced entry, so the caller probably knocked on the door. We ask people to be very vigiliant. We don't know

what we are dealing with."
Police, who were still searching for the murder weapon last night, believe Mrs Rye was killed at about 4.30pm on Tuesday, about five hours after she was seen in shops in Spital on the Wirral. which has clearly been in-Her killer is believed to truded on by evil."

Peter Hetherington

SURGEON who sug-

gested delaying spinal surgery for heavy

smokers and overweight pa-tients until their lifestyles im-proved last night defended his views in the face of criticism

from back pain campaigners

Manoj Krishna, an orthopaedic specialist at North Tees general hospital in

Stockton, Cleveland, called

for radical measures to tackle the growing problem of back complaints, which affect a

third of adults.
In a circular to local GPs.

he suggests that smokers and

obese or depressed people should first be offered coun-

selling before surgery is con-

templated. Yesterday he cited

as an example young people

on benefits who had no inten-

tion of working again.
Implying that some spinal

complaints could be worsened

by 'psycho-social stress", he

writes that some GPs are

telling patients to rest, when

Mr Krishna believes a new,

Spine surgeon

answers back

have tricked his way into her home. "We are asking for in-formation from anybody who has had suspicious callers to their home, or anyone who saw anybody acting suspi-ciously to come forward," said Det Supt Harrison.

Mrs Rye, described as active and well liked, had lived in Spital for almost 40 years. She had lived alone since the death of her hushand John, a director of a firm of West African commodity traders, 10 years ago.
Davina, one of her three children, is a former dancer with the Royal Ballet. Her neighbour, Geoffrey

Howarth, aged 68, who discovered her body, said detectives had asked him not to disclose details. He had last seen her on Monday when they ex-

changed Christmas cards.
Mrs Rye's card contained
£10 for his disabled daughter. "She was always caring." said Mr Howarth. "How could anyone commit such a crime on such an innocent person?"
He said someone called in on her every day. Another neighbour raised the alarm when there was no reply.

The Rev Justin Mote, vicar of Mrs Rye's church, said: "She was a lady of poise, dignity and elegance. This is a quiet suburban and safe area

there has been a 208 per cent increase in sickness and inva-

lidity benefit for back pain since the late 1970s.
"People who are depressed.

grossly overweight, and who smoke will do less well from surgery than people who do not have these factors," he said last night. Psychological distress should ideally be tabled before surgery.

tackled before surgery.
Mr Krishna strongly denied

calling for the prioritising or

rationing of health care in

saving on invalidity benefit.



Teenage Fanclub. Mick Hucknall, The Divine Comedy.

M-People

Oasis, Boo Radleys,

Meet John Major's last hope

Luke Harding

this sector, but said some-thing needed to be done. E MAY be a "boring pillock". He With a co-ordinated drive may have just lost his Paymaster Geninvolving psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and surgeons, he says back pain and Major, staring into the abyss disability could be reduced — of electoral defeat, there was cutting the near £500 million | a glimmer of hope yesterday. annual cost to the NHS while The beleagured Prime Min ister won an unlikely endorsement from Britain's top all-girl pop group - the Spice

But the MP for nearby Darlington, Alan Milburn, sald Mr Krishna appeared to be calling for rationing of care. In an interview with the Spectator, the girls reveal that they would "never vote "The NHS has to operate on clinical need, not on the basis compounding difficulties by of arbitrary criteria ... other-Labour

"His hair's all right but we don't agree with his tax policies. He's just not a safe pair of hands for the economy," wise it becomes a national lot-Association said it was a mis-Geri, aged 24. said of Tony Blair. And what about the structured approach could take for consultants to besave the country tens of mil- come involved in psychologilions of pounds. On the most | cal matters.

'We Spice Girls are true Thatcherites.

Thatcher was the first Spice Girl, the pioneer of our ideology — Girl Power'

Major, he's a boring pillock. But compared to the rest, he's far better," Victoria said.

The remarks should worrs the spin doctors of New Labour. With a governmen without a majority, a general election around the corner and the youth vote up for grabs, the Spice Girls could hold the key.

prime minister. Last year he turned down the opportunity to appear in a Spice Giris video. Their single Wannabe went on to sell 3 million copies. Now at number one in 27 countries it is, as the magazine points out, an "anthem to Thatcherite meritocratic

blown his chance of being

The Labour leader does have something in common with the five-girl ensemble they are both admirers of Lady Thatcher.

In the interview, carried out at the Smash Hits awards ceremony two weeks ago, the girls reveal that they are deeply Euro-sceptical. And what about Lady Thatcher (or Maggie Spice, as she should

and the youth vote up for grabs, the Spice Girls could "We Spice Girls are true told the key."

Mr Blair may have already the first Spice Girl, the was the Christmas

'In the olden days a politician could be a coalminer who came to

power with ideals. Not Blair. He's just a good marketing man. No ideals'

ploneer of our ideology Yesterday the Thatcher Foundation seemed bemused "We don't know whether she likes the Spice Girls or not," a spokeswoman said.

The Spice Girls should not

ready sold 675,000 copies be-fore its official release on

The Spice Girls, who have met Mr Blair, describe him as "nice enough" and "really

"But the real problem with ' said Geri, "is that be's never had a real job. "In the olden days a politician could be a coalminer who came to power with ideals. Not Blair. He's just a good marketing man. No ideals."

Meanwhile, Victoria. known as "Posh Spice" be-cause she once went to ballet school, dismisses the idea of a federal Europe "ridiculous".

"We are patriotic," she

added. "The single currency the Pops and could not be is an outrage. We want the contacted.

single, 2 Become 1, has al- | Queen's head - or the king's head if we have a king - on our own coins." Geri, it also emerges, has

political ambitions of her own. There is Nick Scott's vacancy. I am considering whether to throw my spice into the ring and stand. If the refuse. I'd be like Glenda Jackson, but better,

However, Mr Blair shrugged off the criticism and revealed himself to be a Spice Girls fan. "Just because the Spice Girls like Mrs Thatcher won't stop Tony Blair liking their music," his office declared.

Meanwhile, the girls were oblivious to all the fuss. They spent yesterday filming a Christmas edition of Top of

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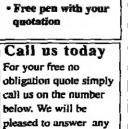
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Stone Age meets Homo erectus

Tim Radford Science Editor

TONE Age men and women may have met their own distant ancestors. About 30,000 years ago. while cave-painting, toolusing Homo saniens were crossing Asia on the way to Australia, they may have en-countered Homo erectus.

The evidence of a brief en-counter has just emerged from a careful dating of two sites in Java. The study, published today in the US journal Science, shows that while modern humans were on the way to planetary domination, Homo erectus — 2 million years older and in an evolutionary cul-de-sac — was still around in one small corner.

Average rise

'will be £109'

litical Correspondent

TREASURY figures reveal that the average family will pay \$109 a year more in

direct tax next year than at the 1992 general election, ac-cording to Labour. The figures appear to be

much worse than the £50 a

year for the average family

admitted to by the Chief Sec-

retary to the Treasury, Wil-

liam Waldegrave, after the

The Treasury described

Labour's interpretation of its figures as selective. "The

pay in tax," a spokesman said.

in direct tax

next year

Ewen MacAskill, Chief

another look at a puzzling set of fossils once known as

'Java man''. Bits of bone and skull were found on a terrace by the Solo River in central Java, along with a lot of fragments of ani-mals, and it looked as though the lot had been swept up somewhere else and dumped there by river flooding. But the fragments were not worn, so they couldn't have come

from very far away.

The Homo erectus bones could not be dated, but the researchers managed to date cattle teeth found with them. They came up with an age of 27,000 to 53,000 years. They obtained the same pattern

HE Environment Secre-

tary, John Gummer, has

ing decisions that have given millions of pounds in grants

to Westminster, the Tory flag-ship local authority in central

London, on the grounds that

It is Britain's fourth most de-

sier to challenge the council's reputation for efficiency as

well as financial prudence.

the Department of the Envi

ronment confirmed that local authority bodies had tried

and failed to get the rules

As Labour published a dos-

Michael White Political Editor

prived council.

Carl Swisher, of the University of California, Berkeley, confirm their suspicions: that and colleagues in North the fossils were up to 400,000 years younger than earlier estimates.

survived on Java at least 250,000 years longer than on the Asian mainland, and perhaps 1 million years longer than in Africa," Dr Swisher said. The new ages raise the possibility that Homo erectus overlapped in time with anatomically modern humans in south-east Asia."

There are still questions about the date. But it looks good for the "out of Africa" hypothesis: that modern huone small group of proto-hu-mans in Africa, and that all other Homo erectus successors - Neanderthal man and

Labour attacks grants to

'deprived' Westminster

disposal — the highest level in the country and more than double that of Camden, its

Labour-controlled neighbour.

the shadow environment sec-

retary, Frank Dobson, sald yesterday. On street cleaning

it came second only to Ken-

sington and Chelsea, at £36.42

But, to Labour fury, its

council tax is kept low by "sweetheart" deals with Con-

servative ministers. "Every-

thing is geared to feather bed-

ding the Tories in Westminster so they can keep

their council tax down," said

a head.

Westminister spends £55 a | package, which will cost their head on refuse collection and | constituents money.

Mr Dobson. He challenged lion a year which the council out-of-London Tory MPs to gets from cars parked at pre-

vote down this year's grant | mlum prices.

so on — were false starts. "I take the dates seriously," said Chris Stringer, of the Natural History Museum, and coauthor of a new paperback Af-

rica Exodus.
"They suggest, if they are right, that astonishingly Homo erectus was still around hundreds of thousands of years after most people thought he had died out. What we seem to have now is a parallel with the situation in Europe, where the Neanderthals were hanging on in the north-west corner of the inhabited world, and Homo erectus hanging on in the south-east corper, and in between, I would say, we have got dispersing modern people, essentially like us, who are going to take over from these

At the heart of Labour's

attack are two elements in the

grant calculation carried out

under ministerial direction from Whitehall departments

that are within the borough.

One is the allowance for

"visitors" to the borough, a

mixture of commuters and

overnight tourists. Westmin-

ster gets an extra £24.6 mil-

lion a year on the assumption

that a proportion of them are

deprived, including, Mr Dob-son said, "12 per cent of the overnight visitors at the Ritz

or Hilton hotels". The other is disallowance of the £20 mil-

the ecstasy tablet which killed Leah was bought at Raquel's nightclub in Basil-

denied supplying ecstasy DETECTIVES questioned tion which led police to suspend the drug dealer who supplied that Mr O'Mahoney might also have been inplied the ecstasy tablet which killed Leah Betts.

Man held after Leah's death

Norwich crown court was told yesterday. Detective Sergeant Derek Nickol said Mark Murray was arrested and interviewed following Leah's death in November last year. No drugs were found at his home and police could not gather enough evidence to connect him with supplying drugs in relation to the death.

Mr Murray had previous convictions for drug ofences, the court heard, and he was a known drugs The court has heard that

don, Essex. Yesterday, Patrick O'Mathe dealer who had sup-plied the fatal ecstasy tab-let was Mr Murray.

Mr Nickol said that in the

early stages of the Leah in-quiry there was informa-similar charge.

volved in drug dealing at Raquel's. But he said fur-ther inquirtes failed to reveal any evidence of that and no charges were ever bought. "Mark Murray was inter-

viewed in the course of this inquiry," Mr Nickol told the court. "We obviously had sufficient intelligence to obtain a search warrant to search his house and arrest him. No drugs were found in his bouse and he was subsequently not charged." Leah died after collapsing

into a coma while celebrat-ing her 18th birthday at her parents' bome in Latchingdon, Essex

Steven Packman, aged 18, of Laindon, Essex, denies being concerned with the supply of ecstasy to Leah. honey, the club's head stephen Smith. 19. of Basildoorman at the time of the death, told the court that don, Essex, has admitted a similar charge. Leah's friend Sarah Cargill, aged 18, of Basildon, Essex, and Louise Yexley, 18, of Basildon, Essex, were both cautioned after admitting a

No PIN, just press the flesh

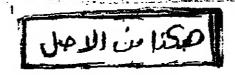
Vivek Chaudhary

SCIENTISTS in America are reported to be developing a system for passing on data through a handshake, which could eventually make PIN numbers obsolete.

The system, a Personal Area Network (PAN), consists of a computer chip, a tiny transmitter and a receiver to fit on a belt or go in a pocket. The chip holds personal de-tails, and when the wearer

comes into contact with some body else wearing a PAN, the transmitter sends a small current around the body, creating an electrical field which

The device, expected to cost around £15, was developed from collaboration between IBM and American magicians Penn and Teller, who had been seeking ways of generating minor electrical fields around the body to create the illusion of playing a keyboard without touching it.



to deflect

Commons

RITAIN and its Euro-

pean Union partners face neither a stark choice between fed-eralism and a limited free

trade area, nor early decisions on joining the proposed single currency, Malcolm Rifkind told MPs last night. As the Commons concluded its turbulent two-day debate

ahead of this weekend's Dub-lin summit, the Foreign Sec-retary struggled against the outspoken doubts of back-

bench sceptics on both sides to tread a cautious path be-tween what he called "two equally Manichaean" choices.

But Whitehall sources are preparing Eurosceptics for disappointment in the review of alleged EU "fudging" of the Maastricht criteria for single

currency membership.
Labour's Robin Cook yesterday joined warnings against "grotesque fudging" of financial tests of economic

health now being tackled by EU governments ahead of the

1998/99 timetable. And he claimed anti-Europeanism would not be the electoral life-

belt some believe.

But the Treasury "fudge" study sceptics hoped would allow British membership to be ruled out, "will not reach

mendations," ministers say. Like the Chancellor, Ken-

neth Clarke, who opened the debate on Wednesday, Mr Rifkind tried to deflect back-

bench Tory wrath against Labour. He accused it of "na-

ivety and inexperience" which had revealed the nego-tiating hand Tony Blair and Mr Cook would take to next

summer's Amsterdam sum-

to protect our frontiers and the Maastricht single cur-rency opt-out are just tempo-

rary aberrations to be aban-doned by a Labour government

But the Foreign Secretary

other rightwing Tories who

press the fee

mit if they win the election. "They have revealed to every European government that the British budget rebate, the Schengen opt-out

debate

Rifkind bid

fears on EU

working week and to combat fisheries quota-hopping.

did Mr Clarke, the sceptics' bete notre. "If there is an hour

of truth approaching, it is per-

own national currency would be a great historic decision," he said, echoing Mr Major.

Mr Cook told him: "The fault-line in the chamber

doesn't run along the table be

He also mocked the Govern-ment's unsuccessful efforts to

get the EU's ban on British beef lifted, claiming this

showed "how poor they are at doing business with Europe". He added: "Standing on the sidelines, shouting through a

megaphone how much you disagree with everyone else, isn't a posture of strength. It

exposes how weak your bar-gaining position actually is." Mr Cook claimed the Gov-

Italy's outcrop offers open door to illegals

John Hooper on how an island in the Med many prompt angry

to leave Italy within 15 days".

Indeed many do — by heading for Germany or, like most Maghrebis, France. Police on Lampedages and many angive leaves and many angive leaves and many angive leaves. discussion in Dublin

ISING from the Mediterranean be-Mediterranean between Malta and Tunisia, Lampedusa, a pineapple-shaped island of windswept limestone dotted with palms, belongs naturally to Africa.

But politically, it is in Europe — a distant outcrop of the Italian state — and it is that which has tempted a is that which has tempted a growing number of north Africans to knock at this European Union.

Warrant officer Francesco Melis, command-er of the island's revenue guard, reckons that this year some 3,500 people have landed from Tunisian fishing boats. Last week saw the cheekiest attempt yet, when a boat loaded with would-be EU residents tied up in the island's main harbour and began disem-barking its human cargo. "Just as if it were a regular ferry service," Mr Melis recalled with a smile.

Comic though it was, the incident illustrates a point that could prompt angry de-bate at the Dublin summit, since Italy's immigration laws are so lax that most uninvited arrivals on Lam-pedusa want to get caught.

Since the expiry last month of a decree which stiffened the provisions of a 1990 law, it is no longer an offence to try to enter, just to try to smuggle people ashore. The immigrants themselves are merely

dusa say many arrivals are Algerians fleeing the civil war, and some have been treated for open wounds. But they believe others are Islamic militants on their way to Europe for reasons of their own.

What makes sense of a landing here is that, for administrative reasons, immigrants can only be served with expulsion orders on Sicily. So the first stage of the onward journey is paid for by the Italian taxpayer. "What is happening on Lampedusa is what hap-

pens in a country which fails to equip itself with proper immigration laws," said Salvatore Martello, the

island's mayor.
Since this autumn, though, reinforcements have been deployed on the island, including three revenue guard patrol boats. But there is no point their patrolling the coastline, since everyone detained in territorial waters has to be sent to where they want to go. On board the 27-metre

Galiano, Lt Italo Spalvieri, who co-ordinates the revenue guards' seaborne contribution, said: "Our best results have come from turning back vessels be-yond the 12-mile limit." On the night of October

26, the Galiano helped intercept four craft carrying 57 would-be entrants. A matic channels brought a Tunisian warship whose crew boarded the vessels and emptied them of their



An African 'squeegee merchant' in Milan who took advantage of lax Italian immigration laws Photograph: MARCO PESARES! served with what Mr Melis would-be immigrants.

Obstacles on the road towards political union

John Palmer on the \perp hard choices facing the British --

ernment was aiming to use the same tactics at the Dublin summit, and chided ministers government at the for planning to object to new faced attacks, not only from powers for consumer protec-Mr Cook, his Labour shadow, tion and to tackle discrimina-Dublin summit on fear ministers are still on a Why we need Europe, page 9

HE central question fac-ing the European Union majority voting in EU deci-summit which begins in alons and other changes biting the European Union summit which begins in Dublin's historic castle today is whether and how to match a move to monetary union

for the EU over immigration and the fight against internaterly resisted by the British

view, the principal five sec-tions of the proposed treaty are highly controversial. But since the Dublin summit will not be asked to make any final decisions, the Prime Minister will endorse the draft treaty — but only as a progress report on the wider inter-governmental negotiations on EU integration, the Maastrich Treaty review

conference. He will reserve his right to veto most of its contents later.

Borders, human rights and

crime The first aim of the treaty is to create "an area of freedom. security and justice". This includes relatively non-contentious provisions for funda-mental human rights, greater police co-operation and nondiscrimination as well as highly controversial propos-als to transfer to the EU responsibility for the fight against international crime, corruption, drug trafficking and abuse against children.

The document hints at the possible incorporation into the EU treaty of the Schengen agreement, which abolishes frontiers between some European states.
If an eventual treaty incor-

porates abolition of internal frontiers, Britain is expected to insist on opting out to retain its own purely national

border controls. Most EU governments want to see a bigger role for the EU in immigration and asylum policy and the fight against crime. However, Denmark about a transfer of decisionmaking in these areas that would directly involve the European Commission and the European Court of Jus-tice, and would almost cer-tainly lead to greater majority

Jobs and social policy
The treaty seeks to incorporate the aim of "a high level

people of the EU. London objects, arguing that this could be cover for all manner of EU economic interventionism and the extension of social policies that would work against the need to make Europe more globally

competitive Well nigh unanimously, other EU governments believe that Europe will not become competitive through sweatshop social conditions. They also want to strengthen EU environment standards and the interests of consumers.

Everyone will sign up to declarations on "subsidiarity" — taking decisions as close to the citizens as possible - and "openness" - end-

Foreign and defence policy s whether and how to match a move to monetary union. The other 14 EU member states disagree among themselves on details of any new foreign and details to strengthen the EU's often constitued and fragile "common foreign and security policy". The focus of debate will be a treaty, but only Britain opposes the goal of closer union lock, stock and barrel. From John Major's point of ternational politician. Responsibility for foreign policy initiatives will in future lie with a new Brussels-based unit (linking the Council of Ministers and the commission) rather than national

capitals. Chancellor Kohl of Germany and President Chirac of France believe the goal of a common European defence agreed at Maastricht should convert now into a phased in-European Union — Europe's putative defence arm — into

direct proposals on changing how EU institutions operate, insisting this should be left to the Dutch presidency which hopes to finalise the new EU treaty next year. But - with the exception of Britain — there is consensus that majority voting must be-

any member state which is at-tacked. Britain also wants to

keep the WEU well away from

direct control by the EU.

Institutional reform

come the rule rather than the exception as the EU expands. On other reform issues there are divisions between the larger and smaller countries over moves to redistribute the votes cast by each state in the Council of Minis-

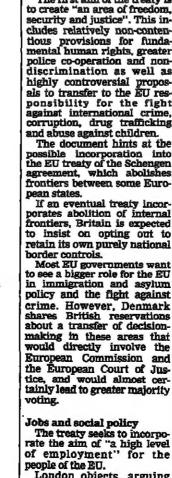
Neutral Austria and population sizes. Apart from Sweden insist this should not lead to an outright security the Court of Justice should be

This is perhaps the most ex-plosive of all the issues to be resolved in a new treaty. By flexibility, proponents mean erate more closely with each other, without such moves being blocked by a veto from

any state refusing to take

part.
Objectors fear this may encourage the emergence of a "union within the union". France, Germany and others are in favour. Britain is happy for the others to co-operate more closely among themselves, provided it has the right to approve what the others do, even where the UK is not participating. Spain, Italy and the Nordic countries ters to better reflect different | regard the idea nervously.





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Kohl tries to heal Czechs' old sores

lan Traynor in Bonn

HANCELLOR Helmut Kohl goes to Prague next month hoping to close the war by signing a declaration million ethnic Germans in of reconciliation with the 1945-46.

After two years of often bitter negotiations, during jective has been endlessly ex-amined. Germany and the many of whom welcomed the

formally admits that it was to blame for the Nazi occupation and partition of Czechoslova-kia in 1939. The Czechs apolonational grievances stem- kia in 1939. The Czechs apolo-ming from the second world gise for the deportation of two

> The agreement has enraged the influential Bavarian lobby of Sudeten Germans: ethnic Germans who inhab-

angry, complaining that Prague's apology means the Czechs have been forced to bow before their mighty neighbour.

The German and Czech foreign ministers are to initial the agreed text next week before Mr Kohl and the Czech prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, sign the document in January.

Although the Czechs go further than before in regretting "the excesses" that accompa-nied the post-war expulsions.

nised as a crime. That would have opened the way for compensation claims.

They hoped to invalidate post-war decrees in Prague and the allies' Potsdam declaration which approved the de-portations so that they could reclaim property and estab-lish resettlement rights. This lish resettlement rights. This tempt to extract concessions on Italian properties lost agreement as a historical lie.

The Czechs have been under strong German pres-

eignty is at stake, that and 25 cents got us a cup of cof-fee," said one well-placed

state which likes to "punch

But London has been an-

noyed by Mr Chirac, who it be-

lieves is playing to the gallery

on the Arab-Israeli peace pro-

cess and Iraq, and now over

UN and is warning Paris that

it risks scoring an own goal by making it impossible to

Mr Annan's appointment. Whitehall hopes that the French will back down in the

above its weight".

formula to lay to rest their pelled with allied blessing at legacy of recrimination and intransigence dating from the war.

Czech nationalists too are angry, complaining that For the first time Germany

For the first time Germany

They won backing from the United feat for the Sudeten German lobby, who insisted that the expulsions should be recognistatement criticising German pressure to revise the postwar settlement. At one stage Bonn dis-

creetly threatened to block the Czech application to join the European Union unless it yielded. Italy similarly blocked Slovenia's EU negoti-ations for a while in an at-

two small post-communist countries struggling to build democracies, felt they were being blackmailed by the successor states to the two key

axis powers.
On both compensation and on the broader foreign policy front of Czech hopes to be in-tegrated into Western organisations, Prague is the net

French diplomatic intransigence makes waves across the Atlantic

Public bickering over the UN and Nato is only the latest episode in a transatlantic soap opera of mutual loathing, writes lan Black

ONG-SIMMERING transatlantic resentment of France's assercoming to the boil as President Jacques Chirac stands his ground in confrontations and now the UN and Nato with Washington over the may grow worse.

The public bickering grew louder yesterday after reports that France's foreign miniswalked out during a toast to the US secretary of state. Warren Christopher, at this week's Nato meeting in

A US official accused Mr Charette of "an incredible dis-play of petulant behaviour", but France and Nato denied that Mr Christopher had been

The denials were treated The denials were treated apparently out of pique at the with scepticism in diplomatic US veto of Boutros Boutroscircles and, whatever the Ghall, whom France backed

It caused ripples for British officials too, who are worried that months of disagreements over the Middle East, Africa

the five permanent members of the UN Security Council blocking the selection of the Ghanaian diplomat Kofi Annan as the next UN secretary-general. He is backed by Britain and the US.

In informal polling yester day France found itself more isolated than ever — it alone among the 15 Security Council members opposed him.

Mr Chirac has insisted that he will support only a franco-phone African candidate,

reflect the gloomy state of don are refusing to back. Franco-American relations. down. down.
"We are getting worried about the sharpness of some of these US-French disputes." a senior Foreign Office official said. 'They seem to be taking on a life of their own.

They're 2

lem with Annan — after all, he does speak French." Diplomats quashed speculation that France might reconsider Mr Annan if the US agreed to give Paris Nato's southern command in Naples, which controls the Mediterra nean. Washington said its po-

stance. And that's the prob-

sition was not negotiable. In any case, the Nato job does not need to be settled until the summer; Mr Bou-tros-Ghali needs replacing by the end of the month.

The Americans accuse Mr Chirac of extreme Gaullism Despite differences on truth, the incident seemed to in 1991. Washington and Lon- and say he has failed to repay

President Clinton's efforts to | ease, London and Paris build a closer personal remain close on a wide range relationship with the Elysee.

"We really stroked the French but, if we thought this ated in Bosnia) through their was going to make them pli-able on Nato or other issues mission to the role of the mission to the role of the where they feel their sover-

European Parliament. Further afield, two years of crisis in Rwands have trained France's role in central British officials are more Africa.

philosophical, sympathising with a similar-minded former colonial power and nuclear one is seen as "trespassing" France and the US have on the other's traditional national concert tour to sing a sphere of influence: this caused the row when Mr Charette launched his Middle East intiative in competition with Washington's efforts. Cynics say such posturing

is intended to advance France's commercial inter-ests. A former senior British official observed: "For them the pirouette is valuable even if the exports matter

find an acceptable franco-phone African secretary-But these policies play well at home. "For a Gaullist president to be visibly distant mother. European monetary union from the Yanks is grist to the and anger about mad cow dismill," said one expert.

Gaza

Arab

shot in

N ISRAELI farmer shot

and killed a Palestinian worker he said he sus-

pected was trying to break into his house in southern Is-

rael before dawn yesterday. But members of Samir Abu Shaqta's family at the Jabalya

snapa's lamiy at the Janaya'refugee camp in Gaza believed the 40-year-old man
was killed to avenge the fatal
shooting of a Jewish settler
and her 12-year-old son by
Arab guerrillas in the West
Bank on Tuesday.

The prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, speaking at the funeral of the mother and son, promised to "deepen"

Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and said that settlements would be given

The Popular Front for the

Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a radical group op-

posed to the Israel-Palestinian peace agreements,

shootings.
"The attack comes within

the PFLP's policy of fighting

settlers wherever they are," a

spokesman for the Damascus-

added security.

Israel

Bernadette's bitter sona of drudgery to riches goes on national concert tour

Paul Webster In Paris

SOME day Hollywood may get round to making the film of Bernardette Goeury's magical transformation from charledy to concert star at the

age of 60. Bernadette, the Nightingale of Verdun, is about to fulfil a lifetime fantasy as outrageous as Cinderella or Pretty Woma, by setting out on specially-written oratorio backed by a 100-member symphony orchestra.

Her fairy godmother was the prosaic Loto, similar to the British national lottery, which made three wishes come true by handing her a cheque for £4.5 million in 1990. The first wish was to break out of a lifetime's drudgery and abuse. The second was to finish her sing-ing lessons. The third was to take revenge on her dead

"As long as I can remember I was unwanted and rejected," she said, breaking off from making a video clip to accompany the first CD of the cratorio, Requiem pour ma Mère, recorded in London

"I grew up on a farm near Verdun and was terrorised by my mother, who made me do the heaviest and dirtiest jobs. I broke away to marry when I was 20, before I discovered that my husband was a tyrant as well who only wanted a cheap and submissive maid." At the age of 42 she found

an escape route by starting singing lessons at the Verdun conservatoire, paying for them by working extra hours. Great tragic figures like Tosca and Manon Lescaut became her companions in mis-ery before she returned to her

ry pengre she returned to her violent husband.

The fairy godmother stepped in after she divorced. With the lottery win, she bought one of the biggest houses in Verdun, where she had made the desired and all the beautiful and the she had worked as a daily. And by the time the attraction of limousines, jewels, fur coats and health cures had begun to wear thin, she had told a tele-vision interviewer of her dream of becoming a concert artist.

A composer, Tony Amaraggi, immediately offered to write the music for her Libretto

The video scenes are being shot in churches, where Ber-nadette wears black, lighting candles as she sings, to add a religious air. But the words of her requiem will startle audiences on her national tour with the European Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Hugues Reiner, who has praised the purity and dra-matic qualities of her singing

The oratorio would have been more suitably titled Revenge on my Mother. , because it starts with the words: "Mama, why did you load the worst drudgery on me as if you wanted to kill me? You were a tyrant who became a torturer and your weight was only equalled by your cruelty."

World news in brief

Police turn away Serb demonstrators

ARMED riot police turned away a student led demonstration in Belgrade yesterday as it tried to march on the home of the Serbian president, Slobodan Milusevic.

Most of the 40,000 demonstrators stayed well back as their Most of the 40,000 demonstrators stayed well back as their representatives went to negotiate with police blocking entry to the Dedinje district, where Milosevic lives. As the protest wound down, a separate demonstration led by opposition politicians swelled to around 100,000 people.

Mr Milosevic spent part of the day meeting the Italian foreign minister, Lamberto Dini. Mr Dini is trying to mediate in the dispute, which becan when protesters demanded that oursest.

dispute, which began when protesters demanded that opposi-tion election victories annulled by courts loyal to Mr Milosevic

should be reinstated Mr Dini said he had failed to overcome the impasse between the two sides, but sources claimed the opposition was ready to compromise and that Milosevic was privately ready to offer new elections. — AP. Belgrade.

Former hostage arrested

A TURKISH soldier was arrested yesterday for praising Kurdish A TORKISH source was an earlier this week, spoke in compliance released by the rebels earlier this week, spoke in compliance released by the rebels earlier this week, spoke in compliance released by the rebels earlier this week, spoke in compliance representations. rereased by the repets earlier this week, spoke in complimentary terms about his captors on the Kurdish-language MED TV channel, which is banned in Turkey for being a tool of the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Mr Yaylati and the others had been held hostage by the PKK in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq for 18 months. — Reuter, Diyarhakur.

Jail for drug cocktail robber

MAN who gave drugged drinks to train passengers before robbing them in attacks that led to the deaths of two people was sentenced to 15 years in prison in Poland yesterday.

The robber, identified only as Antoni O, rode around the country offering travelling companions youks mixed with a fizzy disk companions.

drink containing a powerful cocktail of drugs. He stole from them after they slumped into unconsciousness. - Retter, Warsou:

Japanese find nerve gas

POLICE in Tokyo have recovered a bottle containing enough nerve gas to kill 15,000 people. The discovery followed the arrest of Yasuo Hayashi, a member of the Aum Shinri Kyo cult suspected of involvement in the Tokyo subway gassing during March 1995 that killed 12 people. - AP, Tokyo.

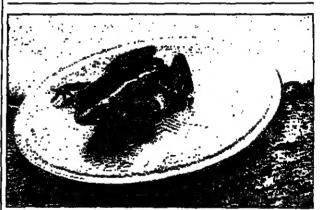
Condors released

SIX young condors were released into the wild in Arizona yester day, in a bid to re-establish one of the largest and rarest birds in

Five of the fledglings were hatched and reared last summer at the Los Angeles Zoo. Condors flew over Arizona's canyon walls in large numbers during prehistoric times, feeding on carcasses of woolly mammothe and saber-toothed tigers until humans pushed them to the brink of extinction. — AP. Arizona.

Sudan 'at risk'

A SUDANESE opposition group said yesterday that the flight of the former Sudanese prime minister Sadeq al-Mahdi to Errirea would strengthen efforts to overthrow the Khartoum government. Farouq Abu Issa, spokesman for the National Democratic Alliance, an armed coalition which has begun attacking Sudan from Eritrea, said Mahdi's departure was a major event which would worty Khartoum. — Reuter, Khartoum.



A tiny frog, found on Monte Iberia, eastern Cuba, sits on a small Cuban coin. At less than half an inch, the new species is just shorter than its nearest relative, found on a neighbouring Cuban peak PHOTOGRAPH: M. LAMMERTINK

und to

iran's case will be heard

IRAN scored an initial victory in a complex legal battle with the United States yesterday when the International Court of Justice ruled that it could hear a dispute about the destruction of Iranian oil platforms by US warships in the late 1980s.

The 16 judges decided that the court had jurisdiction to consider Iran's claims that the destruction of the oil platforms violated international law and that the United States should pay

The disputed events occurred during the final stages of the 1960-The disposed events occurred during the final stages of the 1980-88 war between Iran and Iraq when the US sent naval forces to the Gulf to protect international shipping. Washington had urged the court to throw the case out, arguing that the strikes were a legitimate response to Iranian attacks on a US frigate and an oil tanker salting under the US flag. A state department lawyer said the US was considering a countersuit against Iran for damage cansed to US vessels.—Renter, The Hague

Junta arrests democrats

DISSIDENTS in Burma have said that the country's military rulers have widened their crackdown on anti-government unrest, tightening security in the capital Rangoon and arresting mempers of the country's opposition party.

National League for Democracy (NLD) deputy leader Tin Oo said that 28 members had been arrested in the past five days, 13 of them from the NLD youth wing and one NLD politician. The NLD won the general election in 1990, which was not recognised by the military government. — Reuter, Rangoon.

New agreement on Ganges

INDIA and Bangladesh have signed a new treaty to share water from the River Ganges. The countries' leaders have hailed the agreement as a stepping stone to improved relations between the South Asian neighbours.

Bangladesh and a large part of northern India depend on water Bangiadesh and a large part of northern india depend on water from the Ganges. The water level can vary dramatically, flooding large areas during the monsoon season or falling to dangerously low levels during the January-June dry period. In 1977 the two countries signed an agreement to allow Bangladesh a guaranteed minimum between October and June every year. But the guaranteed tee was dropped in 1962. The agreement signed yesterday is to be reviewed every five years. — Reuter, New Delhi

Bomb blasts in Tajikistan

TWO bomb blasts rocked Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, yesterday, killing one person and injuring another, just as the latest day, killing one person and Injuring another. Just as the latest ceasefire in the central Asian nation took effect.

The first blast was at a telephone booth near the main post office, and close to parliament, which was in session. The second explosion destroyed a parked car with Pakistani diplomatic licence plates, according to a Red Cross relief co-ordinator. Susplcion fell on opponents of the latest ceasefire between President Emomali Rakhmonov's government and the opposition. There was no claim of responsibility and the armed opposition denied involvement. — AP, Dushanbe.



Masked students, supporters of the PFLP, gather for a rally on the University of Bethlehem campus. The PFLP has claimed responsibility for the murder of two Jewish settlers in the West Bank on Tuesday PHOTOGRAPH: GREG MARNONCH

Belgian MPs clear deputy prime minister of child-sex allegations

stephen Bates in Brussels

with under-age boys by a parliamentary commission which voted yesterday on deputy prime minister, the government by bringing a was cleared of having sex criminal case against him.

It ended a three-week or deal for Mr Di Rupo — an avowed homosexual — and a three-day wrangle in the commission.

It appears to have saved

It ended a three-week or government, but at the expense of further weakening the country's trust in its with anyone other than consented to the property of the government by bringing a criminal case against him.

It appears to have saved

guilty to surface

Pardon deadline tempts apartheid Fear forces out Hutus

South Africa's truth commission was set up to identify those responsible for political crimes; now it is a broker for their selective liberty, reports

in brief

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In Tank Out

monstrato,

David Beresford in Johannesburg

Pightwing extremists, feeling the pressure in their game of cat and mouse with Bishop Desmond Tutu's truth and reconciliation commission, have sent in a flood of lastminute applications for

political amnesty.

More than 4,000 antiapartheid activists and rightwingers are expected to apply before the official deadline expires at mid-

night tomorrow.

A series of strategically timed pardons in the past two days has encouraged the stampede. The list is headed by the former Conservative Party MP Koos Botha, who faced prosecu-tion for the bombing of a Pretoria school, and a police captain, Brian Mitchell, who was con-victed of killing 11 people

General Constand Viljoen, a representative of the truth commission and the leader of the conservative Freedom Front, is due to meet President Nelson Mandela today to appeal for an extension to tomorrow's deadline.

The MP and former commander of the South African Defence Force has also tried to put pressure on Mr Mandela to extend the cutoff date for amnesty — December 1993. He says that, shortly before the ANC came to power in 1994, he took part in planning a coup attempt involving

The ANC confirmed yesterday that it has forwarded 300 amnesty applica-tions from its members tions from its members — massacre, appears to set a about 100 of whom are still precedent for perhaps the most difficult decision facting at least another 60 ing the commission: today. They include the minister of defence, Joe Modise, and his deputy, munist Party leader Chris

Ronnie Kasrils. The Pan Africanist Congress announced that it ex-pected at least 600 mem-bers, including the entire 'high command' of its Azanian People's Liberation Army, to apply.

The country's former minister of law and order, Adriaan Vlok, has submit-ted an application, and at least 50 senior police com-manders from the apartheld era are expected to fol-

low his example. Former military commanders seem more reluc-tant: the former minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, advised them to boycott the commission after his acquittal of

murder.
Former president P. W.
Botha, who has been implicated in apartheid crimes, including a bomb attack on the Johannesburg headquarters of the South Afri-can Council of Churches, is ignoring pressure to con-fess and apologise to the

commission.
The commission's deputy chairman, Alex Boraine, said yesterday that a list of questions was being sent to Mr Botha. The commission's am-

nesty choices in the past two days suggest a political motivation at work Two members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weer-standsbeweging who killed two black security guards during the theft of a lorry

The ANC said it had already sent 300 amnesty applications

were refused pardons. They claimed that the murders and the theft were designed to show that black guards were incompetent and so restrict jobs in the security

industry to whites. Two other rightwingers convicted of murder after an attempt to steal weapons were also refused amnests because the political organisation for which they were acting — the National Socialist Partisans — had only four mem-bers and was not widely

The release of Brian Mitchell, the police com-mander sentenced to 30 years for the Trust Feeds Hani.

Clive Derby-Lewis, a senior figure in the Conservative Party, and Janusz Walus, a Polish immigrant acting on his instructions, are serving life sentences for the 1993 murder.



A boy soldier, a member of the Mayi-Mayi militia, gestures from a lovry leaving for the front lines near Butembo, north of Goma, Zaire, to join rebels fighting the regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko

PHOTOGRAPH RICARDO MAZALAN

HE United Nations refugee agency says hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutus have fled its being forcibly repatriated like their compatriots who were driven home at gunpoint from

eastern Zaire. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that as many as 180,000 people left the largest camp, Benaco, yesterday. Another camp, Ngara, which held 113,000 people, is almost

empty.
Tens of thousands of refu-gees have fled at least a dozen other sites, meaning that at least half of the 540,000 Rwandan Hutus in Tanzania have now headed into the bush. Meanwhile Rwandan-backed

rebels in eastern Zaire de-clared a unilateral ceasefire yesterday and called on the international community to pressure President Mobutu Sess Seko's regime into

negotiations.
"Because of much pressure from abroad we have stopped [the war]," said Laurent Kabila, leader of the Alliance of Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire. "This [war] can continue if there is not a clear indication from the international community and the gang in power in Kinshasa to say they are willing to surren-der or to start negotiations." A previous unilateral cease-fire broke down within days, and there is no firm evidence that the killing has stopped after weeks of fighting as the rebels — aided by Rwandan and Ugandan soldiers — press toward Zaire's third largest city, Kisangani, and diamond-rich areas in central Zaire. said in Geneva yesterday that it would airlift emergency

supplies for up to 100,000 Rwandan refugees in dense forest in east Zaire. A UNHCR statement said

food, blankets, plastic sheet-ing and medicine would be airlifted to Shabunda, 110 miles west of Bukavu, eastern Zaire. Unlike the refugee camps

until the end of the month to Moi said. eave its soil.

government's demand, drawing criticism from Amnesty International, which accused the UN of colluding in breaking international laws against the forced repatriation of the Burundian military was

PHOTOGRAPH: RICARDO MAZALAN into areas around the camps rebels.

yesterday but the government would not say whether the troops were there merely to try to prevent the refugees moving deeper into Tanzania or to force them home. State radio warned the Rwandans that they faced deportation or arrest for abandoning the

camps,
A UNHCR spokeswoman,
Judith Melby, said that the
exodus from Benaco camp appeared to have been co-ordinated, presumably by the Hutu extremist militias — the interahamwe — which led the 1994 genocide of Tutsis.

"Certainly to us it looks like an organised movement, which we regret, since we had just started our repatriation programme," she said.

It is not clear where the refugees are heading. Some have fled by cance into Uganda but UN officials believe the bulk are trying to reach Zambia or Malawi, a

walk of more than 500 miles.
"They do not want to return to Rwanda at all. We have offered them assistance to return to their camps but they have rejected this. Countries they want to go to are Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Malawi," Anette Nyekan, head of the UNHCR in Kar-agwe, said.

'Sanctions in Burundi have started to yield resuits'

Although about 600,000 Hutus returned to Rwanda from eastern Zaire last month, it is unlikely that the bulk would have crossed back into their homeland if they had not been forced to by the Rwandan army and Zairean rebels hunting down the Hutu

extremists. President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya said a regional sum-mit would be held in Nairobi on Monday to discuss the crisis in the region. It is not clear who will attend. Zaire

Mr Moi said the summit would assess the impact of the regional blockade against engulfed by the war in Zaire, the military regime of Major those in Tanzania are not Pierre Buyoya, who seized threatened by fighting. But Rwandan Hutus fled after "Sanctions in Burundi have Tanzania gave the refugees started to yield results," Mr

He acknowledged that Ma The UNHCR supported the Buyoya had gone some way towards meet the demands made when Burnndi's neighbours imposed their blockefugees.
Tanzanian soldiers moved tional negotiations with Hutu

A hundred ways to make an honest peso illegal immigrants can

Dire economic necessity has turned Colombians into a nation of quick-fix entrepreneurs, says Jeremy Lennard in Bogotá

up in torrential rain outside the Hospital Militar in Bogota, a touslehaired man in shabby clothes rushes forward, offering pa-tients his umbrella. The cost of a dry walk to casualty is 100 pesos (about 7p).

Alvaro is one of an army of impoverished Bogotanos who have an uncanny entrepre-neurial eye for the smallest money-making opportunities. The city's informal labour market is booming.

Alirio Carvajal chose to set up business in the Parque de Santander — one of Bogota's favourite haunts for lovers. He offers poems and songs for sale, plus a Polaroid photo service. He reckons on taking five snaps a day. "If I take less, I don't eat."

He is typical of Bogota's enterprising underclass. many of whom are first or

S AMBULANCES pull second generation desplaza-up in torrential rain dos — refugees from the vio-outside the Hospital Mi-lence and poverty of the countryside.

"My father was killed by paramilitary forces when I was six months old," he says.
"I left home when I was five and came to Bogotá." Since then polio has confined him to a wheelchair, but he continues to ply his trade. Alvaro and Alirio have carved out their own niches, but many of their colleagues make a crust by offering ser-

city council is unable to Bogotá's streets are riddled with an estimated 4 million potholes, many of them big enough to swallow a Mini. With his skin blackened by burning tar, José Riviera fills

shortage of traffic police, and spend their days shrouded in

exhaust fumes, directing traf-fic at busy junctions. The daily downpours which drench the Colombian capital are more than a match for the city's drainage system, and many streets are regularly under a foot of water. Enter José Gomez, his brother, two planks and four bricks. For a small fee, Bogota's middle classes can use Jose's improvised toll bridge.

The list of services is end-less. At traffic lights drivers are bombarded with offers of chest-expanders, wipe-boards, sets of kitchen knives, rowing machines and anything else the hawkers can lay their hands on. Pedestrians can

Colombians are particu- sifting through mountains of larly inventive. "Given the waste for cardboard and alueconomic opportunity, we minium. Whole families turn would be a nation of high-flying entrepreneurs," says Mar-tha Obregon, a sociologist.
"As it is, creativity is simply a question of survival."
To many hustling is the sian squalor. The mayor, Antanas

only way to make ends meet, but Mario Caicedo gave up a "real job" in the sewers to work on the street. Much to the frustration of bus passengers and public telephone users, Bogotá suffers a chronic shortage of small change. So Mario sells Mr Mockus has tried to 800 pesos in coins for a 1,000 peso note. He has been

accused of taking advantage, but he believes he is merely satisfying the principles of supply and demand. "I earn three times as much, and I smell much better," he grins. At dusk, as Mario and his colleagues pack up, flea-bitten nags pulling rickety carts emerge to compete with the rush-hour traffic. At the reins are Bogotá's rubblsh re-cyclers, who spend the night rice and plantain. genious citizens earning their

out to rummage in Dicker

Mockus, is disparaging.

"Many of these people cause
more problems than solutions," he says. He has a
point. Traffic on the city's pitted and congested roads is
made worse by the lack of

Mr Mockus has tried to crack down on informal la-bourers. But he has a difficult position to defend. Bogotanos may find the unofficial work-ers unsightly, but as the city ombudsman, Alfredo Manrique, points out "To wait for the town hall to carry out public works is to wait forever."
With 50 per cant of Bogotanos living below the poverty line, there is little Mr Mockus can do to prevent in-

be modern-day slaves

Mireya Navarro

AST year Francesca Ekka went to the United States as an au pair and housekeeper to an affluent couple with two children. There was a large house with a swimming pool, a salary offer three times higher than

But the three-bedroom house by a lake in a prosper-ous Miami suburb became Ms Ekka's prison, and the couple

her torturers.

Seven months later, when the police found Ms Ekka after she dialed the emergency number, she showed the scars of her ordeal: a deformed ear from pulling and twisting, a healing welt under one eye and a swollen jaw

from beatings, and an iron burn on the back of one hand. Kishin Kumar Mahtani, aged 42, the Indian owner of an export-import business, and his wife, Shashi Gobindram, an Indonesian, pleaded guilty last week to conspiring to hold Ms Ekka in involuntary servitude, inducing her offer three times higher than what she used to earn and the promise of a better life for a young woman who had worked since childhood in her native India.

But the three-badyanary setvingle, inducing her in violation of interpretation laws. They face up to five years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000 (£156,000) when they are sentenced in March.
Criminal charges of invol-untary servitude, defined as compulsory labour performed

by a person against his will, are relatively rare — numbering fewer than a dozen a year — but groups which try to help abused workers say that instances of modern-day slavery are far more widespread

In New York city, members of Sakhi, an organisation formed to assist housekeepers and nannies from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, say they see 20 to 25 cases a year of domestic workers under vary-ing degrees of oppression by

same pattern experienced by Ms Ekka. The worker is brought to the US on a tourist visa which soon expires, leaving her fearful of arrest. Her passport is usually taken away. She is then forced to work for little or no money. Victims can be found in other groups of labourers as well. Among farm workers cases of peonage, in which il-legal immigrants are forced to work off debts to their employers for their smuggling, are on the rise, according to the Migrant Farm Worker than the number of prosecutions indicates.

Justice Project in Florida.—
New York Times.

'Grave illness' silences Sinatra

lan Katz in New York

HE world's most famous set of vocal chords will never hold a note again, according to friends of Frank Sinatra, who yesterday marked his 81st birthday quietly at his Beverly Hills estate.

The New York Post reported that the enter-tainer is gravely ill after suffering a stroke during a spell in hospital.

A "source close to the Sinatra clan" said he would Sinatra cian said ne would never perform again. "Those days are over... He's in very poor health and it's only a question of how long he'll live. He can-He's in very poor health and it's only a question of how long he'll live. He cannot sing anymore."

As American television networks jockeyed to air glowing birthday tributes

to The Chairman of the Board, friends said that Board, friends said that only a handful of relatives and intimates would join him to celebrate.

"It's going to be a very private, small party," said glowing birthday tributes of the Chairman of the Board, friends said that the hospital, Sinatra issued a statement urging the mark the birthday yester-wighly outside his estate.

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Frank Sinatra: quiet party

rying Gordon MacRea.
According to "music industry sources" quoted by the Post, Ol' Blue Byes' condition changes dramati-cally from day to day.

The precise nature of the singer's illness has been the subject of speculation since he entered the Cedars-Sinai medical centre frequently with the singer, on November 1. on November 1.

for a pinched nerve, but he got out of the hospital . . there were persistent reports that he was suffering from pneumonia and rette. If you've had pneumo-

Shella MacRea, who once that I go home — and I sugdated Sinatra before margest the same thing for the cameras camped out at the end of my driveway."

Yesterday's reports of Sinatra's poor health con-tradicted earlier statements by friends who insisted that rumours of his illness were evaggerate George Schlatter, a television producer who worked His publicist insisted that he was receiving treatment called him a few days after



You're test driving the new Audi A3. Do you:

a) find a narrow ravine with a broken bridge, slam into second and leap the gap shouting 'Geronimo'?

b) roar past a wall of fire at the side of the road to an eighties soundtrack? e) just go for a drive?

If your enswer is (c) please call 0345 699777 for more information.

The Guardian

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Protect our food chain

Consumers must be separate from producers

BAD THOUGH the last fortnight has ken, ministerial line was that promotbeen for ministers, it should have been even worse. Yet thanks to the 400 miles between London and Edinburgh, ministers have escaped much of the wrath the media would have imposed had the food poisoning scandal north of the Scottish border struck south instead. Eleven people have now died, 200 are infected and another 200 suspect cases await confirmation. The E. coli 0157 epidemic in Scotland is now the second | tion teams. The Institute of Food worst in the world in terms of fatalities. Only Canada, where 19 were killed in

1985, has suffered a worse tragedy. Like the BSE fiasco, the latest food poisoning saga should not have been a surprise. Responsible officials had already raised the alarm. In his final report last year, Scotland's retiring chief medical officer pointed to the new poisoning agent, which emerged in North America in the late 1970s, and was spreading rapidly in Scotland. The scottish strain was known to cause Scottish Secretary blames local officials was spreading rapidly in Scotland. The diarrhoea, severe abdominal cramps for the delay but as the Glasgow Herald and vomiting. Although most people noted, "he had no business leaving such would not be at serious risk, children and the elderly were always going to be more vulnerable to the bacterium, which can produce toxin that causes

serious kidney failure. Ministers could be forgiven for not being able to forecast a specific outbreak. Where they are at fault is in their general approach to food safety. It may sound good campaigning to cut red tape, but public protection requires rules and regulations. Last Saturday, our Scotland correspondent described the problems which Scottish environmental health inspectors had suffered in the face of ministerial scepticism towards their work. One minister -Nicholas Soames — dismissed food poisoning as "a mere inconvenience". Another, John Gummer, expressed scorn over a critical report on an outside ing business was more important than

health inspection. Scottish legislation itself is defective years ago but free market ideology triumphed and the proposal was dropped. Worse still have been the cuts to food research and local health inspec-Research has suffered a 25 per cent cut to its budget while many local councils have been forced by financial restraints to merge their health inspectors into trading standards departments. In the words of our correspondent: "The impact of shrinking staff levels on an already over-stretched hygiene inspection service can only be guessed at."

It is against this background that the five-day delay in warning the public of an important decision to hard-pressed local officials". The delay has undoubtedly helped spread the infection. The scandal is now being investigated by three bodies: a police investigation into possible criminal negligence; a fatal accident inquiry which will be able to question ministers and officials; and an investigation into the disease by a panel of medical experts. A fourth group, a special cabinet committee, was set up by Downing Street yesterday to look at the lessons for the UK. One overriding lesson has emerged from the succession of food scandals — salmonella in eggs, listeria in cheese, mer-cury in fish, alar on apples, sulphite in wine, BSE - in the last decade: the need for a separate food safety agency. Separating consumer from producer interests is the single most important catering event. The official, if unspo- change to improve public protection.



Raising low wages is surely part of what it's all about

national trade talks normally take an eternity to resolve but the first meeting of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Singapore has confounded its critics in two ways: it has not only secured considerable agreement on liberating the telecommunications and information technology (IT) industries but also in getting the controversial question of human rights inserted in the final communique. The IT deal should help to reduce the price of lots of consumer goods — like cars, electronic games and washing machines — while the liberalisation of telecommunications could open up protected Asian and European markets while also enabling the information revolution to travel faster than it would otherwise have done to parts of the earth that can only dream about it. As the United Nations points out, more than half of humanity has never made a telephone call. There are 60 telephones for every 100 Americans but less than 0.5 for every 100 people living in sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa). The dual process of opening up state-owned monoliths to competition and reducing tariffs could have a disproportionate effect on the Third World's ability to reduce information poverty.

Britain - which has one of the most liberalised telephone systems in the world and also two strong companies (BT and Cable & Wireless) - ought to be able to capitalise on the progress made in IT this week even if the scotch | human rights.

THE WORLD is full of surprises. Inter- | whisky industry is the most headlinegrabbing beneficiary (as a result of the US agreeing to phase out its tariffs over five years as a sweetener to secure the dismantling of Europe's high IT tariffs). After some last minute head-banging it looks as though today's declaration will have a form of words accepting the commitment of all WTO countries to core labour standards and recognising the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation (ILO) as the competent body to establish what those standards are. This is a positive step forward even if it falls short of the original objectives of the United States. For a mixture of motives (partly concern back home for human rights regarding the world's 250 million child workers and partly corporate pressure to remove low wages as a source of unfair competition) the US wanted a much more radical agenda. But some developing countries didn't want any mention of core labour standards linking trade with improving labour conditions in the final communique. Pakistan, India and Malaysia believe that US linkage of human rights with trade is a backdoor attempt to undermine the Third World's low-cost labour advantage. But no one should doubt that raising the wages of poor workers in developing countries is part of what this is all about. If in post-Thatcher Britain the CBI and the TUC can do work together in areas of mutual interest, there is no reason why the ILO and the WTO can't cooperate over basic

The deadlock over gridlock

Engineering and pricing won't solve the car problem

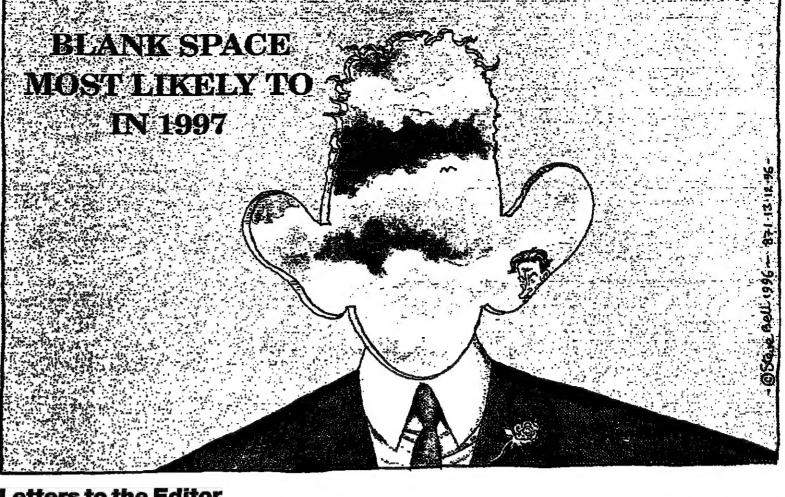
IT CAN'T go on. Or can it? Yesterday | rather than denial of the aspirations of London Transport underground was paralysed when two tube lines coincidentally came to a halt. The day before most of London above ground was gridlocked after a rogue lorry hit an overhead sign. The capital's problems always attract, unfairly, most attention, yet we all know that the whole country is driving into a dead-end crisis as

congestion and pollution grow worse. A new report commissioned by the Automobile Association says that car ownership will go on rising and that demand for road space must also rise relentlessly. What conclusion we draw depends on where we start from. The author of the report, Stephen Glaister of the LSE, writes that growth will continue "unless society faces up to this and makes a decision to stop it." The AA, not surprisingly, has decided in differential pricing. It is the breadth of advance that it is unstoppable. The life which needs improving, not the situation, it says, requires management | width of the road.

those who "see their lives being enriched by having a car."

Yet the real question is not denial versus satisfaction: it is how to tackle the underlying issues which create so much of the demand. Most parents do not drive their children to school because the distance is too far, but because public transport is uncertain and walking to school is perceived as unsafe (in large part because of the danger from road traffic - to which they then contribute). Satisfying this requirement then increases the motivation for possessing a second car — a quarter of

all households now have two or more. Pressures such as these which make cars appear the only option (though often chosen with reluctance) will not be eased by engineering works or even



Letters to the Editor

Capital just keeps marching on

spiracy of silence, De-cember 11) refers to global "free trade" as the ob-jective of the World Trade Organisation whereas, in fact, it is the "free movement of goods and services". The difference is not merely a matter of semantics.

Free trade implies contracts between willing parties; free *movement* opens the door to economic invasion and the possible destruction of a national market sector.

The Government is actually proud of the fact that it has been able to bribe such invaders to use the UK as a free

entry into Europe.

Even free trade is not as beneficial as it once was. It still has a net zero outcome but these days it produces winners and losers. A trade deficit has hung over us for many a long year. David Ricardo's classic con-

cept of free trade postulated that mutual equity depended upon a neutral balance of trade over a given period, full employment in both countries, and no export of capital in either. The ignoring of those condition has produced a century or more of trol corporations and the

curbing of national economic sovereignty by the global markets. Hence our presidential election with the contes-tants vying to deliver virtu-ally identical economic

Cyril Appleton. Frome, Butts Meadow. Lower Hardres. Canterbury, Kent CT4 5NU.

ONATHAN Eyal fails to appreciate that corporations, in national, multinational and transnational forms, have historically enjoyed vast economic and political power, it is hardly a new

But when the political leaders he points to — Kohl, Chirac and "Blajor" — bow to the "new realities" of global markets and global corpora-tions, this is hardly evidence that corporations or the economy *cannot* be controlled. It is more a reflection of the fact that Western political leaders both help to produce, and are positioned by, the hegemony of assertions that political leaders should not try to con-

IT'S TO CELEBRATE

WORLD PEACE SO WE THOUGHT WE'D

BEITER LEAVE IT

In the week we remember Raphael Samuel, it is worth recalling that Marxists — for whom "globalisation" is neither new nor surprising have long advocated efforts to control capital in its national and international forms. On a daily basis, workers' move ments and community activ ists show their willingness to resist these "new realities" ask the Liverpool dockers or the opponents to the dumping of the Brent Spar. Capital can be opposed, cor-

porations and economies can be subject to far greater dem-ocratic control. The fact that Western political leaders col-lude with "the chairmen of multinational capital" is hardly evidence of the "trends" they hide behind.
(Dr) Steve Tombs. Hill Road,

Birkenhead LA3 8TL.

SITE FOR

MILLENNIUM

THE BEST present we can give the next century is to

ensure that no one is sleeping rough unless they choose to

and that every young person

has a job, or real training, or full-time education, with gen-

ATRUE dome is self-sup-porting from its circum-ference. The proposal for Greenwich and the Millen-

nium is merely a dome-shaped tent. Just like the Gov-

ernment, it will lack support from the outside and will be

propped up from within. Ian Castle.

Meopham, Kent DA13 0NS.

uine opportunity she them, not false promises. Books not bridges; homes not

domes, I say.

Anne Dunn.

39 Eaton Place, Brighton BN2 1EG.

PROJECT

ONATHAN Eyal finds our politicians and governments dancing to the tune of multinationals and global markets. It is odd that our socalled debate on new forms of

ONATHAN Eyal (Conspirated wars. The Gatt Agree economy. Men and women spiracy of silence, December 11) refers to given legal authority to the losopher, though not in circles constances they choose. professional government. Small wonder the electorate is given no clear options at

Westminster or that few bother voting for MEPs. Des McConaghy. 10 Falkner Street. Liverpool L8 7PZ.

AT last someone has de-fined the problem sensed by today's political agnostics.
As an elderly socialist (and thus with no sense of irony), I ask in all seriousness, can Dr Eyal or anyone prepare the beginnings of a solution?

When I bear from a national figure with convinc-ing credentials and the cour-age, intelligence and vision to address the problem. I may again believe democracy to be achievable. Religious and other non-rational suggestions are not required. E W Went. 5 Trewenna Drive.

Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5JW. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mailed

FRANCIS Wheen (December 11) accuses me of in-

consistency in resigning from

Conservative Central Office

because of my disagreement

with John Major's stance on a

single currency whilst remaining a parliamentary candidate. Yet CCO is consti-

tutionally the office of the

Leader of the Party; so I had

to quit my job if I wished to

campaign against Emu.

My counter-infiltration of
Newham North-east Labour
Party 20 years ago was
prompted solely by its takeover by the Revolutionary
Socialist League (aka Militant
Tendency) and, as for Nato,
even Wheen should be able to

appreciate the difference be-

tween a *voluntary* alliance and

a common European defence

policy subject to trreversible supranational control.

Finally, your Diary (December 11) claims that "with

some insolence" I denied

being the source of the Eve

ning Standard report that Emily Barr toured New For-est East in my presence. I

had nothing to do with the ap-pearance of this false story.

A Country Diary

small herd of wild goats are feeding on Yeavering Bell

(Or) Julian Lewis. 3 The Parade,

Southampton Road, Cadnam \$040 2NG.

Why I quit

| Five verdicts on Two Brains

CANNOT rejoice over the ideparture of Mr Willetts (Willetts pays the price, December 12). It has left the system he worked in intuct and uninvestigated. Unlike the committee, I can easily be-lieve in the truth of his evi-dence, except that instead of "naive and arrogant". I would say "drunk with power and prepared to use it". In the context of the Tory Whips' Office, the two are clearly the

Without sight of the Whips Office files on the Hamilton affair and similar ones, how can we reasonably single out Willetts for censure? Sara Clarke. 45 Church Street,

High Peak SK22 2JE.

F a parish councillor were being tried for corruption, and his/her influential friends were caught trying to persuade the jury to ignore the offence, the very least those friends would get would be six months in Jail for conspiracy to pervert the course

of justice. How then could any report, however damning, or even temporary suspension from pe regarded barsh or adequate punishment for David Willetts? Laurens Otter.

College Farm House, Mill Lane, Wellington. Salop TF1 1PR.

David Willetts is held up as an example of an honourable man. Are his the standards to which the Government would really have us aspire in its declared aim of raising the moral climate of society? Eileen Noakes.

Ridgeways, 2 Lower Warren Road,

Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1LF. [SUGGEST "to willett(s)" joins "boycott" and "quisling" as an eponym, meaning to plead an archaism in seifexoneration. There would also be an echo of the cry of the American bird, the willet: a cry of injured innocence?

Flatts House. Leathley, Otley LS21 2JT.

'D like to commend David honourable thing, but I'm ter-ribly afraid that he knows some medieval meaning of the verb "to resign" signify-ing "to stay in place whatever the pressure". Could it be so? A Purcell.

18 Bouveril Road Chelmsford, Essex CM2 OUE.

When Domes day fails to come

NSTEAD of the Millennium Dome (Millennium star pro ject faces axe. December 11), why not build something which exploits British construction technology, remains useful after the event and gives something back to the people who paid for it? No contest — Greenwich is the ideal location for the Millennium Hospital.

Britain is still pre-eminent in medicine, British medical equipment needs a showcase, the market for healthcare design overseas is enormous and the prospect of a health park riding on the back of this new hospital is very real. Any more spinoffs? Well, we need not build that ridiculous new Royal London Hospital project costing £300 mil-- let's just leave it as a peripheral hospital. We can save Bart's on the same basis

and Whitechapel also.
If our Millennium Hospital costs £200 million and we save £300 million at the Royal London, then we get our hospital for nothing, and have some-thing afterwards. Howard Goodman. MPA Health Planners, 105-111 Euston Street,

OUR anonymous charita-

ble source is much less than charitable when he tells

you (Inside Story, December
11) that the Queen's patronage of good causes is of little
practical value.

Any one of the 800 or so charities enjoying her patron-

age will tell you that the pres-ence of the Queen on their

sion of the Commonwealth Institute with the several pavillons beneath the solendid dome located on the Greenwich Meridian. That seems the perfect place not for just a UK project, for there are al-ready plans for many celebra-tions, but for a Oneness In Spirit to accept the year 2000 as a "chance to start again' as the family of nations. (Rev) Joan Duncan. Sapperton End, Maynards Green, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 0DD.

HAD visualised a grand ver-

F we really want to mark the Millennium in London, why don't Norman Foster and Richard Rogers apply their combined brilliance to sort

ing out the dreadful me is the Elephant and Castle?

50 High Street, Warboys, Cambs.

USTIAN names have their part in journalism as well as in novels or real life (Letters, December 7, 9, 12). When I was a reporter on the Daily Express in Manchester in 1955 the entirely fictitious T Lowingham Sproat, described as a retired British Railways executive, featured irregu-larly in the paper's columns — perhaps a guest at a party,

notepaper is an assurance to potential donors of the integ-rity of those charities. What occasionally a witness to some minor event. is more, her name on the In the reporters' room of notepaper is often a magnet to the Yorkshire Post, we supthose deciding which causes ported a similarly invented Seth Pigginbanks. He to support.
As for her personal charitamourned at county funerals with a sufficiently large attenhle donations, I do not know dance for him to appear without undue suspicion, and was

what means your informant has for establishing either their destination or size, a sporadic interviewee, espe-cially on agricultural matters. since they are made anonymously. But I can tell you, It was a matter of pride for from personal experience. reporters to guide these crethat, when she is able to help ations past the sub-editors and directly, she most certainly does so. It is tough doing good quietly without being de-Sir Sigmund Sternberg. Sternberg Centre for Judaism.

into print. I am confident that modern departments of media studies set their faces rigidly against any such practice. Barrie Heads. 4 Cole Park Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 1HW.

Royal command | Crumpacked | Last words

Winnats, Whitehill Road,

Gibb (Letters, Decamber 12) demand that gender or race (or, in Northern Ireland, religion) be a major factor in selection or promotion in order to "redress imbalances" appear to suffer from a form of ethical blindness. They complain of past dis-crimination while demanding present and discrimination. Paul Rowlandson 42 Hillview Avenue

Londonderry BT47 2NU.

T is not true that all copy-ing from books or periodicals should be licensed (Copyright detectives prepare to move in on Whitehall, December 6). The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 allows exceptions for certain purposes, for example, for li-brarians and for anyone doing research or private study. Only unauthorised copying needs to be licensed. Ross Shimmon. Chief Executive, The Library Association.
7 Ridgemount Street,

London WC1E 7AE.

scrambling about on the tors for sustemance on the flats above the Common burn. These nomads of the hills are not indigenuous natives of the Cheviots but have eked out a living on these hills for several hundred years. Yesterday, the farmer at Kirknewton Tors was looking to his sheep at midday. "I was high out," he said. "About 1.750ft. I saw the goats grazing just below me. We like to see them, they don't integrate with the sheep.
We take hay to the flock in
severe weather but the goats always move away when they

see me come."
In midwinter, they still heft on his land but survive only on gorse, even in weeks of thick snow. They run between Wester Tor and Easter Tor and the herd has slightly in-creased in numbers over the 13 years that this farmer has been in the College Valley. "Our farming policy has changed in the last five years, we have fewer sheep on the hill. Perhaps this has helped

NORTHUMBERLAND: A the goats, I've noticed there are now about 25 in the herd. They must be inbred, their nearest contemporaries are on Carter Bar." They kid in February and March, which can be a harsh time of year in these Northumbrian hills. The nannies come down to the sheltered valleys to have their

kids and get among the rocks and bushes. Today, when public concern is expressed about dwindling species, the wild goats of our Cheviot hills arouse little interest from conservationists. Perhaps it is just as well. The nearest true relative is the ibex capra ibex; naturalists who have studied skull and horn growth of the feral wild goat and the Spanish wild lbex have noticed a marked similarity. None of us will ever know how many of these remarkable goats survive but It is wonderful that a nucleus do - with no help from mankind. Northumberland National Park wardens keep kind. an eye on our Cheviot goats and usually know their

whereabouts. VERONICA HEATH

famed for it.

an East End Road.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS 9

Matthew Norman

HE Spectator has evi-dence that the tradi-tion of the condemned man enjoying a hearty meal survives . . . in this case not breakfast, though, but a Last Supper. And what a supper it was, when columnists Alan Watkins and Bruce An derson, next to whom Fatty Soames is a skinnter Kate Moss, went to the Connaught. Bager to dine with an "interesting politician", they chose — who else? — David Willetts, and Bruce relates that the trio began with champagne (£7.75 a glass), moving on to a '94 Montagny (£34.50 per glass) and then two botiles of claret, a Calon Sequenr, at "a mere £55 a bottle". Pudding wines were £10.20 a glass, while the Armagnac was less than £13. As for the food, Bruce had langoustine salad, chicken consomme with truffles, woodcock, and finally trifle. Although Alan also stuck to the set menu, a bargain at £55, it is hard to be precise about cost. Bruce says the bill came to "a shade over 2500" — almost worth an entry in the register of member's interests? — but if Mr Willetts enjoyed his Last Supper, who are we to quibble over money?

IARY pop correspondent John Redwood is investigative investigating rumours about Virginia Bumley. After losing interest in Babylon Zoo (well, you know how fickle they are at that age), it seems Virginia has transferred allegiance to the Spice Girls. "Yes, it's awful," says a glum source in Whitehall. "At first she was mad about Victoria, the posh one, but now it's Emma, the cheeky one with the pigtails. It could be worse — it could be Geri, the topless one — but the pigtails don't go down well in Cabinet." But surely she will listen to reason? "No she won't. Whenever we try to argue about it, she just shouts 'girl power', and sticks her tongue out."

Nencourseine breakthrough for London Underground communication skills has been spotted at Holborn. "We apologise for the fact that there are delays on all areas of the Piccadilly line tonight," read a blackboard message yesterday. "This is due to the late running of

ELEGRAPH enforcer Boris the Jackal John-son is learning Welsh. The Tory candidate for Clwyd South is being tutored by a lawyer at his well. The Jackal was out when we called to discuss it yesterday. "The Guv'nor's not here, see," said a high-pitched voice, redolent of Hi-De-Hil's camp announcer Glwadys Pugh. "He's off singing and talking about what's wrong with Welsh rugby with his friend Max Boyce." And has the Jackal mastered the Welsh for "stay lucky"? "Look, boy," rasps the voice, "my Guv-'nor knows how to give that message in every language in the world."

FTER deep consideration of the morality involved in publishing leaked material, under the tutelage of Profes Piers Morgan of the Univer-sity of Ethics, we have decided to return to the 10-pas document Your Guide To Working For Harriet next week. How long should Harriet's meetings last? Who are her campaigners for Shadow Cabinct elections? If it's the third Tuesday of a month with a 'C' in it, and Jack Dromey rings between 11.27 and 11.33am, what colour toothwork should you be Harriet's overnight bag? Everything you ever wanted to know about working for Harriet Harman is here— and you can read it exclusively in the Diary next

OACHES of the Atlanta Braves baseball team have questioned pitcher John Smoltz after he arrived for training with several five-inch burns on his chest. Eventually, Mr Smoliz confessed that it happened when he tried to iron his shirt while still wearing it. "I've done it that way five or six times." he explained. "and never had it happen be fore." This insulting sterotype of the half-witted sports jock . . . will it never fade away?



...

4.2

7 (** 7 (**

Watch out, sex and violence are about

Commentary

Peter Preston

HAT, pray, about adults? A suddenly beleaguered species in a media world where Michael Howard and Virginia Bottomley claim centre screen — and children (pre-electorally, that is) come first. "We shouldn't all be condemned to a diet of nursery fare," says Jocelyn Hay, one of TV's brighter campaigners. Amen. But the gruel is flowing thick and

gruel is flowing thick and fast.

Watch this tide turn to flood through the coming months. Its dimension, and the flotsam floating on top, can be precisely predicted—for America, as ever, has seen it first in the next three days, one gasp ahead of statutory controls, the US TV industry is producing a "voluntary" system of programme gradings. The Daily Mail and the rest of the pack—scornful of scorn and the flotsam floating on top, can be precisely predicted—for America, as ever, has seen it first in the next three days, one gasp ahead of statutory controls, the US TV industry is producing a "voluntary" system of programme gradings. The Daily Mail and the rest of the pack—scornful of the misonature of them fought over a single condom. We're not talking moral if you're lucky. A tired farmer who goes to bed early

producer guidelines and lowering the roof on "sophis-promises — will love them. ticated themes". And (more The Commons Heritage Com-devils, more details) it won't mittee may be off again to New York on one of its factfinding "missions" before you can say Bloomingdales. There will henceforth be

There will henceforth be six gradings for American television. Two covering shows specifically for children — TV-K and TV-K7 (suitable for over sevens) — and four wider ones. TV-G (G for general) promises "little or no violence, little or no servual content". TV-PG has "limited coarse language. limited tial content. TV-PG has "imited coarse language, limited violence and some suggestive sexual dialogue". TV-14 may contain "sophisticated themes, strong language and more intense violence". We can virtually forget TV-M (for Maturity): only a few late night cable channels can

be enough anyway. The pres-sure group clamour demands ever more information. If a show is PG, is that because of some language, some violence or some sexual benter? Give us TV-PG-SL/SV/SS and all available variants.

Consider the gorgeous, in-terminable scope for argu-ment and agitation. Did you know that the "sexual con-tent" during American TV's "family hour" — 8 to 9 in the evening — has grown from 43 per cent in 1976 to 75 per cent in 1996? That is this morning's fresh research from something called the Raiser Family Foundation. But ser-ual content is "talk about sex" or "sexual conduct like flirting or kissing". Luditrous Definition Creep.

It needs nil gift of prophasy to see where all this will end for the broadcasters. You can

I wonder whether the tabloid editors so keen on this
pruriently vague crusade
know what they're getting
into. For why, in logic, should
anyone stop at TV gradings?
The Daily Mail was hypervague this week after the latest Bottomley intervention.
The trouble, it said, was the

Because we're too feeble to tell the children what to do, we condemn ourselves to kiddyfication

"general coarsening of what appears on our screens". Who limes up for General Coarsening in this stout brigade? Privates Adultery and Prostitution, all present and incorrect, Sir; Corporal Deviant-Sex and Sergeant Drug-Taking ready for duty. But the General's army fights on many different fields.

Turn a few pages on in that selfsame Mail and you can find a nice lady journalist, with nice picture attached, explaining why she slept "general coarsenine of what

explaining why she slept

aren't enough insomniacs around, the progressive triumph of the amodyna and the offensively inoffensive is assured Because we're too feeble to tell the children what to do, we condemn ourselves to kiddyfication.

I wonder whether the tabloid editors so keen on this pruriently vague crusade know what they're getting into. For why, in logic, should

General Coarsening would General Coarsening would

give her a medal. erating channels and expand-ing choice — is to be censori-ously confined and graded, why stop there? A child may buy a copy of the Sunday buy a copy of the Sunday Sport like a tube of Smarties. Shouldn't we get indignant about that? It falls foul of every new US definition on offer. SS-M.

A bizarre notion, of course. A bizarre notion, of course. There's no evidence of newspapers polluting the young, it will be vociferously claimed. The Press Complaints Code eschews matters of tasts. The freedom of the press would be fatally jeopardised. Newspapers wouldn't be able to give their vectors what they give their readers what they want — or, dangerously, to reflect the real world as they see if. If anyone needed a Children's Newspaper, they

could start it and see.

Absolutely right. It's a fatal extrapolation. But there is nothing illogical about it as General Coarsening and the his new model Army twirl

their celery sticks.
Est your mashed banana
up, dear: and then turn that
damned television off.

(because he has to be up with the lambs at 5am) would be brain dead before he's sheared his first sheep. Sophisticated themes? Pass the HP Sauce. Worse, because ratings drive the engine and there aren't enough insomnlacs around, the progressive triumph of the anodyne and the offensively inoffensive is assured. Because we're too fee. Sansthle stuff, perhaps. But DM-PG/SS? Or DM-14? And what would the Keyser Foundation think of the same day's Star, which led on a tale about a football club which **Liz and Hugh**



Bel Littlejohn

Grant. His supporters might argue that Grant is "just an actor". Oh, yeah? This reader was left in no doubt that Mr Grant and his sidekick Hurley are two of the most blamewortheir snooty upper-class accents and ever-so-English ways, the sooner they are chucked overboard the healthier it will be for this belea-

What are we to do about the

proaches? Whatever happened to the promised classless society? Will Rupert Murdoch con-tinue to be allowed to run roughshod over any form of limits to media-ownership? And what about the homeless and the increasing number of old folk? And what of Charter 88? Not until the advent of Hugh Grant in his most "successful" (note the inverted commas) movie did these grave problems hit us where it hurt. But his performance crystallised — and in many ways exacerbated — the Brit-ish disease of ignoring crises. In fact, you could argue that without the influence of Hugh Grant and his notably Grant like performances in ruinously popular films, Britain would be a proud, confident young country, topping the economic league of Europe, perhaps the world, with ade-quate provision for the poor, the disenfranchised, the

homeless and the elderly. set in Britain or somewhere else. His own character, too, sems relentlessly the same, as though he were so limited in his imagination that he can only ever conceive of himself as one and the same person. Charming? Hardly. For me, charm amounts to a lot more than a diffident smile, "per-fect" manners, a whimsical haircut and an oh-so-English "pleasant" demeanour. If you told me Jack Straw MP was charming, I'd agree with you. | year

Or the smashing Margaret Beckett. But Grant? Nah. Historians point out that the ristorians point out that the cracks have been appearing in Hugh Grant's "perfect" image ever since he was born. His biography is a catalogue of fatal mistakes amounting to an avalanche of indiscretion. He was born into a family that was neither working-class nor upper-class but somewhere in between. He never recovered REAT EXPOSE in G2
of the so-called phenomenon that is Hugh
Grant. His supporters might argue that Grant is "just an actor". Oh, yeah? This reader was left in no doubt that Mr
Grant knew full well that, had frant knew full well that, had he taken two further A levels in subjects he knew nothing about, he could well have faced catastrophic failure. And — on this all commentators are agreed — from this humiliation he would never have recovered.

Disaster followed hard upon

guered nation of ours.

It doesn't take an economist to realise that ever since the release of the risible Four Weddings And A Funeral, Britain has been going through a severe crisis of identity. Are we part of Europe or are we a separate mation-state?

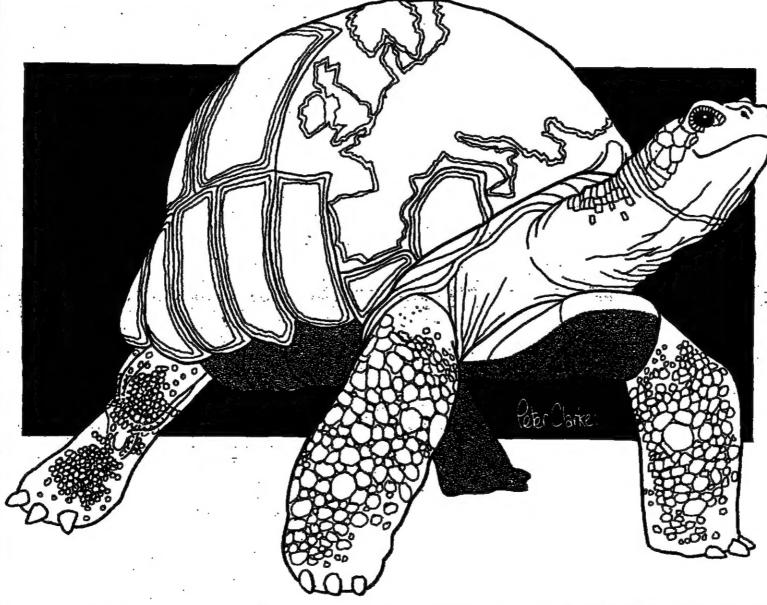
have recovered.

Disaster followed hard upon disaster, humiliation as Hugh Grant reached the age of 14, he was already a magnet for disaffection and disillusionment. Around him, the Western World was enveloped in a major oil crisis, Watergate was looming and the British was looming and the British nation was forced to struggle increasing age of the population as the millennium ap week. Yet Grant remained blithely unconcerned. For the young Hugh, it was almost as if he wasn't to blame. By the time Grant was 18, the Western economies had plunged

into a downward spiral. And what of Elizabeth "Liz" Hurley? She seems to believe that her tarnished notion of "glamour" will see her through everything. Ruthlessly seizing every opportu-nity, she seems to think she can just sit back and wait for the world to owe her a living. But we're not all like you, Liz. But we're not all like you, Llz. If ever I go to a new movie — the latest Ken Loach for preference — I might just don something patchworky and a little bit ethnic I bought three years ago half-price in the Monsoon sale. But I'd never parade my body around the local Odeon half-naked in Versace, And nor would Marearet sace. And nor would Margaret Beckett or Jack Straw.

TOO have been a successful actor in my time (star-An an actor, Hugh Grant seems eble to take on only two kinds of roles: those in which he plays himself, and those in which he doesn't. His films hardly vary, either, the ones that aren't set in the present the full clare of the media. are set in the past, and those the full glare of the media that aren't set in America are spotlight for over 15 years now. So let me give this tip to Grant and Hurley: sorry, but we're not interested in you any more; we're not remotely obsessed by your sexy outfits, your glossy smiles and your boring career moves. And these days, let's face it, who would even bother to write a column about you? Yup: it's over, loves, it's oper.

Bei Littlejohn will soon be voted



Eurosceptics have been making most of the noise so far, but John Monks condemns their 'jingoistic claptrap' and calls for Britain to be at the heart of EU decision-making

Why we need Europe

- and what a spectacular war it is proving to be — the news from Dublin this weekend will be that Europe is again inching

This is uncomfortable news for the Eurosceptics and for most of our newspapers, but not for the TUC. British workers need Europe to succeed. We think it is historically necessary for Europe to succeed. And we believe that Europe will succeed. Not without difficulty, no doubt. Not without it being dubbed "two steps forward, one step back". But the sense of direction is clear and positive.
But why, after spending the 1970s regarding the European Community as a multi-national paradian and a market

tionals' paradise and a protec-tion racket for peasant farm-ers, has the TUC become a theerleader for all this? Has the world turned upside down? Surely governments are cutting public expenditure to meet the Maastricht

Isn't that why the Spanish workers are on the streets this week following the earlier disputes in France and Germany? In the mediumterm the answer to the question about public expenditure is no. Public expenditure—the uprating of hospitals and schools and other public services — is a function primarily of our economic success,

doubt at all that Europe is where we have to be.

Moreover, which part of the world already has the best public services? The European Union has at its heart strong public services, strong welfare states and decent rights and protections for workers. That's the TUC's model too, and it is one which should attract wide support from the left and centre left. In the 1920s Ernest Bevin called for concerted action in Europe to tackle unemploy-ment. Today the TUC echoes ment. Today the TUC echoes Dublin proposes the incorpo-that call, and I am encour-

EHIND the smokescreen of the Conservative Party's in the medium term I have no civil-war barrage doubt at all that Europe is course, one government — guess which — is adamantly opposed to it. Our Government will, however, have different representatives at Am-

sterdam. I trust. The Prime Minister and his colleagues are wrong to report parrot fashion that "it won't create a single job". But we do have to consider how to get the right balance of economic and monetary policy in Europe and give the Council for Finance and Economic Ministers real leverage in relation to the European Central Bank.

being promoted by Neil

Second, the draft Treaty at

pariners and the local au-thorities and, where they exist, the regional authorities, to draw up "territorial pacts" giving maximum added value to the structural funds which are of growing importance as Europe develeffrontery. ops, as are the trans-Euro pean transport networks servative Party become a ner

certation", that is joint work, | they shout "no fudge" one

This brings me inevitably to the \$64,000 or 64,000 euro question is all this really and others fondly imagine, is

on new employment initia-tives at national and regional level. It calls on the social

The TUC wants a wide-ranging, high-level task force set up to assess how the UK can adjust to the euro and what it would mean in real terms for jobs and services

signed in Amsterdam in I think it is shaping up to be an important step forward

in Europe's history, addressing some of the major con-Europe's citizens. First, I am pleased to see for the first time phrases like "a high level of employment" at

nign level or employment at the heart of a new chapter on employment, something the TUC, as part of the European TUC, has been campaigning for ever since Masstricht. Of

Treaty. Again, I have no doubt at all that Labour would be delighted to be signing that at Amsterdam. Third, there will be new sections of the Treaty on the cerns which are worrying environment, non-discrimination and institutional reform.

Furthermore, separate from the Treaty revision, Dublin will receive a report drawn up by the European trade unions and employers, providing for greater

aged by the text of the new which is at present an annex. Europe about to fall flat on its treaty which is likely to be into the main body of the face? I say no, it isn't. The hard pounding on the stability pact between Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac means that the real terms are being hammered out on the anvil right now. It will be a compromise. Maybe some will call it a fudge: Do you expect the general secretary of the TUC to say that is the end of civilisation as we

know it? I have been watching with interest the growing schizo-phrenia at the Daily Telegraph and the Times

day and "those right criteria are going to ruin the economy" the next. And for a gov ernment at Westminster which has privatised more than any other and has flogged off the family silver, to complain that France is fiddling the figures really serves a special prize for But we musin't let the ner-yous breekdown in the Con-

vous breakdown for Britain The bard facts are that the euro is still likely to go ahead and on time, though with a few fudges, no doubt. The UK will have to decide to join or remain outside, either shadowing the euro or with a floating currency. If sterling devalued against the euro, then some action might be taken by other states against British exports to the single market. The TUC wants a wide-ranging, high-level task force set up to assess how the UK can adjust to the euro and what it would mean in real terms for jobs, services and competitiveness. And most of all we want to substitute a proper informed basis for de-bate in place of the jingoistic claptrap of the little

We have been late into virtually every other major European initiative, and in so doing forfeited influence over them. When will we learn?

John Monks is general secretary

Good-bye battery



Welcome to the future: Selko Kinetic*, the first quartz watch that turns your movement into power. Every move you make is converted into electrical impulses by a tiny built-in powerhouse. Ecological, reliable and efficient: wear it one day to gain energy for at least two weeks. Wear it dally - it will run continually. Made of titanium: light, yet strong and kind to your skin. 20 bar water resistant. One-way rotating bezel and screw lock crown. Selko Kinetic - it's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

Selko Kinetic at: http://www.selko-corp.co.jp

Enemy of the ad men

of America's post-war con-sumer culture and warned against the alarming influence of advertising, has died at the age of 82. His best-known book was *The Hidden Persuaders* (1957), a highly readable study of the use of psychology by advertisers ex-ploiting the postwar con-sumer boom. He drew heavily on Ernest Dicter's school of motivational research to show that advertisers were increasingly trying to target the consumer's sense of inadequacy, selling Campbell's soups not simply as nourish-ment, but as "good" food that echoed the comforts of the

echoed the comforts of the maternal breast.

Packed with anecdotes about the way Detroit marketed cars to men as if they were high-powered, barely tameable mistresses, the book made the pungent point that political candidates like General Eisenhower were begineral Eisenhower were begin-ning to be sold in a similar way. Consumers and voters were being manipulated through "our secret distress feelings" and the manipulators were "learning to invite us to channel these feelings through their products." ings through their products".
Another target was "the psycho-seduction of children" by TV advertising, and in particular a show called Ding-

Dong School where children were invited by Dr Francis Horwich to take a daily vitamin pill "every morning like I do". "All this probing and manipulation has seriously anti-humanistic implica-tions," Packard wrote. "Much of it seems to represent regress rather than progress for man in his long struggle to become a rational and selfguiding being."
In 1959, his book The Status

Seekers was an intriguing

Marin Sorescu

Romanian poets were at last catching up in the con-

sciousness of Western

readers with their famous Eastern European peers —

Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Miros-lav Holub, Zbigniew Herbert

- Marin Sorescu, who has

died aged 60, was suddenly

more extensively translated

As so often, small dedicated

poetry presses led the way in

Britain. Bloodaxe Books pub-

lished two volumes, in 1983

(memorable translations by

Michael Hamburger from

German versions) and again in 1987, when poets, including

DJ Enright, Ted Hughes, Paul Muldoon, Michael Long

ley and Seamus Heaney, co

tributed to the collection The

Biggest Egg In The World. Meanwhile, Forest Books.

who later spotted Poland's Nobel prize-winner Wislawa

Szymborska, had published in 1985, Let's Talk About The

Weather, a title suggesting the

more contentious subjects in

Given the constraints and

perils of the last years of

Nicolai Ceausescu's regime.

Sorescu's work seemed hint-

ingly enigmatic in the way much Eastern European

poetry did at the time. How-

ever, the hints were rarely

the Romania of that time.

ss of touching on

and read than the others.

Tales of the

unexpected

N THE mid-1980s, when | inadequate to tether this |

Anglophile trappings of tweed jackets and stout brogue shoes, Packard explored the folkways of the WASP establishment in characteristically readable style.

The Waste Makers (1960) explored the new corporate device of planned obsolescence, of manufacturing products with a limited life and deploying marketing strategies that would lure consumers to buy the latest model. Reliability was becoming a less useful sales tool than novelty, in a market in which television

From private schools to tweed jackets and stout broque shoes. Packard explored the WASP

establishment

advertising allowed businessmen to "catch a glimpse of the potentialities inherent in endlessly expanding the wants of people under consumerism". His later books made less impact, as they began to criticise not only corporate cul-ture, but the increasing selfsociety that was getting hooked on hedonism. The Sexual Wilderness (1968) challenged the fashion for free love in a society thrilling to the easy contraception of the Pill, and stressed the social and personal utility of monog-

amous marriage.
Packard's 1983 book Our
Endangered Children concluded that healthy children were best raised in a tradi-tional family house where a

abundantly talented, exuber-

antly comic and often unnerv-

ing body of poetry to the polit-

ical circumstances in which

it was composed. Sorescu was

dealing in timeless meta-

physical uncertainties - and

pleasures — and almost every

one of his many hundreds of

poems is an essay in the unex-pected. He was a master of

brief, self-contained fable.

converting ordinary experi-

ence into sinister fantasy as

Each new passenger on

Everyone's neck is chafed

Sorescu was born in the

village of Bulzesti, in Oitenia

southern Romania, the fifth

child of a peasant family. He

and won a place at the dis-tant, prestigious University of Iasi, where he graduated with

a degree in modern lan-

is a carbon-copy of the one who occupied

the seat before him.

by the newspaper whoever's behind him's

If I turned round

I'd be cutting

my own throat

reading.

right now

ANCE PACKARD, whose best-selling likes to deny. From the world books of popularised sociology developed a powerful critique Episcopalian church and the legiscopalian church and the legiscopa than five hours on weekends. He was essentially an old-fashioned American moralist, nostalgic for an environment that had disappeared traumatically in his own boyhood, when his father had to sell the failing family dairy farm in 1924. He was born and raised 1924. He was born and raised in rural Pennsylvania, in a village with the appealing name of Granville Summit, by a mother who gave up her school-teaching job to raise the children and who kept a strict Methodist household of figurality and termosteries.

frugality and temperance. His father got a job in the agriculture school of Pennsylvania state university, where young Vance Packard went to college and was taught by the sociologist and journalist William Waller. Almost a prototype for Pack-ard's future career, Waller dabbled in popular journal-ism and made a stir with an article that analysed "the rat-ing and dating complex" of 1930s college life. It was a college where Marxism was not fashionable, following rather the politics of the pop ular front and of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

"Get the facts — know what is going on behind the words to his students, and he praised the muck-raking tra-dition of journalists such as Lincoln Steffens. Packard took this to heart, although he failed to win the editorship of the college paper. He went to the Columbia School of Jour-Record and to the Associated Press, where he felt the need to keep his Methodist distance from "the broken-down drunkards of the city room". Packard was from afar trying to court his college sweet-heart, Virginia Mathews, and the attitudes that were to colour his books are plain in

Marin Sorescu...

a way with words

setting up his own literary journals, most prominently

Branches (Ramuri), published

His poetry by then had led to

invitations to Naples, Edin-burgh, Mexico City. He later

edited a volume of transla

tions of the work of poets he

but below this unassuming

surface one detected the

rough warmth and sly hum-

our of his peasant forebears.

His first book, published in 1964, was a set of clever paro-

dles of his contemporaries. It

was followed by The Death Of The Clock (1966), Cough!

(1970) and Fountains In The Sea (1982), in which serious themes were delivered with

knowing comedy. A Roma-nian critic once described

him as "a streetwise urchin

guages. He began work as a who pretends surprise and in-journalist, finding his true credulity". These qualities

E WAS a quiet-

mannered man, not noticeable in more

flamboyant company,

met on these excursions.

from Craiova Writers' Union



alarm when he heard that she their two-century-old homes" was dating a prosperous dentist. He warned against the dentist's "large spending power in amusing entertainlng and diverting in extrava-gant fashion". He urged her to look carefully behind the image, "strip him of his his thesis, be will have to sell spending power (car and dough) and look again". His admonitions succeeded, and

they were married. In 1952, he gave up journal ism to write books full-time and moved to the rural retreat of New Canaan, a place where he could potter through "the tree-shaded village green, peer into the lovely old-spired and cleanlined churches, visit the stillpicturesque stores, chat with

enabled him to benefit from the liberalisation of the mid-

1960s and carve himself a

niche of freedom from which he was never dislodged.

He was also a successful playwright and artist. In this

Impoler was performed in Oxford and broadcast on Radio 3 in a powerful version

poetry, passion and grim

humour of Sorescu's plays

transcend their quintessen

tially Romanian and fervently

patriotic character, and hold

the stage as universal dramas

of suffering and endurance. In 1993, Marin Sorescu was

appointed minister of arts. He

enjoyed the receptions and

presenting poetry on tele-vision, but disliked political

life and bated ministerial

drudgery. An emerging popu

lar press found scandal to

gossip about and he gladly yielded the post to an eminent

painter, devoting what were

to be his final months to writ-

similar idyll of Martha's Vineyard, where he became a leading campaigner against

that home in New Canaan and go back to living in a cave," sniffed the Wall Street Journal in its review of The

As so often, Packard's critics, including the academics who dismissed him as a populariser, missed the point. He became one of the most influence that the point of him as a populariser, missed the point. ential cultural critics of his day because he rejected the cave. He relished American abundance and prosperity.

Wilf Carter

but wanted to enjoy it on his own terms, which meant recognising the dangers of abandoning the traditional veri ties of family stability and village churches and products that last a lifetime.

In American terms, he was a Jeffersonian Democrat, nostalgic for an era of freethinking yeomen whose hardwon opinions were proof against the manipulators' lures. The phrase by which he is likely to be remembered is the conclusion to *The Hidden* not to be persuaded."

Vance Oakley Packard, writer and journalist, born May 22

The yodelling cowboy

ILF CARTER, who and many others, at first has died aged 91, be issued only in Canada and longed to the first generation of yodelling cowboy performers in what would later be called country music. A Canadian who made his name singing a quint-essentially American music, he was deeply touched by the 1920s recording of Jimmie Rodgers's America's Blue Yodeller. Carter, however, replaced Rodgers's low-life themes and suggestive lyrics with nostalgic tales of log shacks, cattle round-ups and prairie sunsets, sung in a breezy baritone to jogalong guitar, with a variety of tech-

ing, teaching and editing his latest literary journal, Born in Port Hilford, Nova Giving Sorescu a book to be Scotia, he began working in signed often resulted in a rapid felt-tip drawing of the dedicatee. I have three such English editions. At home in his twenties as a cowboy in Alberta. "I went across the country breakin' horses. I took part in the Calgary Stampede — did chuckwagon, wild cow milkin', wild horse rac-ing. And I used to play the guitar for the cowboys." In Bucharest last month, he was too weak to repeat that amiable gesture. But the signed book he gave me was the first in his own language I had 1930 he began singing on ever acquired. It had appeared earlier in the radio and in 1933, while in Montreal waiting to embark as a shipboard entertainer on a new luxury liner, he made Romania, books by Marin Sorescu still sell out a week

his first record, Swiss Moonlight Lullaby.
This successful debut was quickly followed by The Roundup In The Fall, Take Me Back To Old Montana. which may have suggested his professional name of Montana Slim, Cowboy Lullaby

Australia but by 1936 in the US and UK as well. His effect on the young country music idiom in Australia in the 1930s is incalculable: Frank Ifield made his recording debut with Carter's There's A Love Knot In My Lariat. Though his career was in-

terrupted in 1940 by a car

crash in which he broke his back, Carter recaptured his Canadian audience in the 1950s and never really lost it again, though he toured only winters in Florida, where he owned a motel. "He is still popular in the sticks," a friend in Calgary wrote in 1984. His records are regu-larly found in department stores and five and dim By then he had made morn than 20 albums; the last

would come in 1988, titled Whatever Happened To All Those Years. Some were more elaborately produced than his early sides, but none took him far from his familiar narrative terrain of open range and rainbow trail. He was elected to the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 1985, a tribute not yet matched by the US country

Wilf Carter, country singer, born December 18, 1904; died Decem

joined ICI, doing war research on synthetic plas-tics, polymers and fibres. After the war he moved to the Royal Technical College.

ment and innovation.

Ted Edwards was deter-mined that in his university,

overseas students.

University challenger

Edward George Edwards

Institute of Technology in 1957, he not only saved the college from closure but. invasion of Hungary. Even through his leadership and political skill, ensured that in remained a member of the political skill, ensured that in remained a member of the political skill.

1966 it became a university.
From humble beginnings in depressed South Wales — his father worked in the Cardiff shipyard — he reached the top of his profession, driven not by personal ambition, but by his intelligence, concern for the underprivileged and acute political foresight. From his local high school in Cardiff, he did not take the conventional route into

conventional route into higher education, but studied at Cardiff College of Technology, Such was his calibre that he was awarded a first class external degree in chemistry at the University of London—a real achievement for a student from a local college with few experimental facilities. After completing his PhD in 1938, he was appointed lec-turer in chemistry at the University of Nottingham, where he stayed until 1940, when he

Salford as head of the department of chemistry and applied chemistry. In 1864, he was appointed Principal of the College of Technology, Liverpool. Three years later. recognising the potential in the newly created Colleges of Advanced Technology, he moved to Bradford where, during the next 21 years, he transformed a small local technical college into a large and successful university, with a reputation for experi

technology would have a human face. He extended the normal wording of the Char-ter to read: "the advancement of learning and knowledge and the application of knowledge to human welfare.' Technological advancement was not to be an end in itself, but only justified in that it improved human welfare. To Ted Edwards, this meant helping the underprivileged. Social sciences became the fastest growing department and his relish for experiment and innovation, coupled with his deep concern for social progress, led to the introduc-tion of disciplines such as purposes and communication, project planning for developing countries and the

school of peace studies.
Ted Edwards was considered a maverick by many of his fellow vice-chancellors. He received little support for his plea for united action to combat racism in South African universities and he stood alone, after Oxford and Cambridge had given up the struggle, in opposing the Government's decision to introduce discriminatory fees for

Ted Edwards remained a radical throughout his life. He had volunteered to light in November 21, 1996

Birthdays

ED EDWARDS, who has died aged 82, made the University of Bradford. As principal of the Bradford Institute of Technology in its Science for Peace group. He last in 1955 after the Saviet He left in 1956 after the Soviet invasion of Hungary, Even militant Association of ScienMANISHY IL

10P he

lickes h

sprofits

militant Association of Scientific, Technical and Management Staffs (ASTMS).

He also believed that students had a right to be represented on the University Council and in their bases or Council and in 1969, he set up the General Committee of Senate which, with its nine elected student members, gave students a considerable influence in determining aca-

demic policy.
Ted Edwards wrote and spoke well, luttially, his publications were confined to research papers in chemical journals, but he was as much a philosopher as a scientist and this was reflected in his lectures on academic aims and structures, delivered to the academic staff of his nascent university. He wrote



Ted Edwards . . giving invention light

and national press, and also wrote on higher education and university planning for academic journals. He served international journal. The Scientific Worker, and fre-quently lectured at the International Centre for Postgraduate Studies, in Dubrov-nik, Yugoslavia, of which he was a founder member.

In 1982, after retirement, be published Higher Education For Everyone, in which he emphasised the difficulties faced by the underprivileged in hoped to make Bradford a "comprehensive university" by forging close links with the local technical college, but his plans were frustrated.

Ted Edwards was unique unong vice-chancellors, and he established a unique university in structure, aims and achievement. In the words of the university motto, suggested by Edwards's wife, Kathleen, he was, indeed, able to "Give invention light"

Robert McKinley

Edward George Edwards, chemist, born February 18, 1914; died

Howard Brenton, playwright, 54; Lord Bullock, historian, 82; Jim Davidson, comedian, 42 John Fran-come, racing commentator. 44; Chris Gorringe, chief executive, All-England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon, 51; Anouska Hempel, actress Anouska Hempel, actress and hotelier, 55; Prince Karim, the Aga Khan, 60; Dr Douglas Latto, chairman, British Safety Council. 83; Robert Lindsay, actor. 47; Prof Sir William McCres, astronomer, 92; Genevieve Page, actress, 69; Christo-pher Plummer, actor, 67; George Shultz, economist,

to "touch into words"

76; Prof Olive Stephenson, childcare expert, 66; Maj-Gen Sir David Thorne, directorgeneral. Commonwealth Trust, 63; Sir Laurens van der Post, writer and explorer, 90; Dick Van Dyke, actor, 71; Paula Wilcox, actress, 47; Brian Wilson.

Death Notices

To place your announcement selection of 123 4567, Fex 0171 713 4129.

sense . . . aggression." 18.

Riker's beard; badly concealed

Jackdaw

1990s so far

WHAT has happened is awkward to define. There's precious little room for analysis, no time to think things over in our zippy straight-to-screen world, where life—any life, every life — is instantly repackaged as advertising or cartoon, as tabloid drama or household brand. Where Charles And Diana is a cable-TV movie. Where Fred West becomes a docu-drama. Where Disney rifles through history. checks the mood of the mo-ment and sells them both back friendly, post-feminist, assertively sassy ethno-babe. With knock-out tits. In the Nineties,

ad-men use E-soaked visuals to | thornier issues thrown up by flog you noodles. Funfairs are called Worlds. Pop stars go house-hunting and it's proper

And none of it seems real. None of it is real, in the sense of being true or authentic. Truth is unwieldy and unfinished and not beautiful. It doesn't end itself to easy headlines. Perhans one of the things that the search for authenticity, for the real world as opposed to all these Disneylands. Like the skaggy Scot said: Choose life o you'll be left with the living creeping death of retail parks and garden centres, starter homes and final demands; of hire purchase, low expectations. Betterware; of secondrate action videos, hard eyes, soft furnishings and the comf second-hand emotions of

fin defence) in our leisure time we create little worlds rules and references designed to let us live our lives as we want, rather than change society at large . . . laddism is its own club which helps some of those who join to sidestep the

modern relationships. And the things ironic creates, like all these other things, a set of people linked just because they Get The Gag. From Miranda Sawyer's clear, brave overview in The Face.

Touch of Evil THE cities of Ciudad Juárez und El Paso, Texas, constitute the largest border community on earth, but hardly anyone seems to admit that the Mexican side exists. Within this forgotten urban maze stalk some of the boldest photographers still roaming the streets with 35mm cameras . . . I think they are capturing something, the look of the future. We have these models in our heads about growth, development, doesn't look like anv of these mages, so our ability to see this city comes and goes, mainly goes . . . These photographs literally give people a picture of an economic world they cannot comprehend. Juárez is not a backwater but the new City on the Hill, beckoning us all to a grisly state of things . . . Like all the shooters in Juá-

in vain in bookshops

or two after publication.

Marin Sorescu, poet and drama-

tist, born February 19, 1936; died December 8, 1996

the season. In November and December, there is a bumper crop of drug murders as the merchandise moves north and accounts are settled. secople hang themselves. The vear hring fires and gas explosions as the poor try to stay warm. Spring means battles between neighbourhoods (or colonias) over ground for building shacks as well as outbreaks of disease in a city largely lacking ewage treatment. Summer brings water problems to a head, more disease and batches of murders by the street gangs. The cool days of fall open a new season of battles between colonias and then with the holidays, the photographers return to drug

killings, suicides . . . "Yes, I am afraid," Jaime Murrieta admits. "But I love my work. I am on a mission and everything has its risk. God helps me." He has this

is coming at him with a gun or a knife and there is nowhere to run. As they fire at him or shove in the blade, he raises his camera and gets the ulti-mate murder photograph. "I will die happy," he insists. Charles Bowden in Harper's Magazine on the Rio Grande death and the fear of life.

Bookworming

THOUGH he has spent 30 years writing, Michael On-daatje confessed that it's reading he likes, its "transforming quality" — and the texture of books, their smell, porousness and typography. And he con-fessed to reading everything by every kind of author, from novels by Yasunari Kawabata to seed catalogues ("This plant flourishes under total neglect," he plucked from one) ... "The author is there to discover the story, not to tell it," Ondaatje said. "The delight of fiction is when a

beyond your knowledge.

Like Miles Davis, who

character starts saying things always listened for what he

Right in your . . . Face

could take out. Ondaatie edits what he has written so as to leave an indelible story". Ondaatle lives in Toronto is married to a poet, Linda

Spalding, and has two children, but his 1982 memoir, Running In The Family, is very much that of a son. It is the most delicate embroidery of a book, made up of the present and the past as remembered by members of his family, whom he wanted



Warped factor

est families in Ceylon: my

[A FEW] of the 100 reasons why Star Trek sucks. 10. Cap-tain Janeway: Joyce Grenfell in a leotard. 17. Counsellor Troi and her useful "empath" talent of stating the bleeding obvious eg vicious aliens blow

He speculates in the book that it's from his mother that he got a sense of the dramatic, "the tall stories, the determichinlessness like Gerry Adams, 22. Stor Trek: The Motion Picture. Oooh! It's not nation to now and then hold just a load of B-movie tubsters the floor". When his parents split up (Ondaatje was about reuniting in desperation. It's a motion picture! 23. They have a planet caled Bringloid 5. 27. four), the "easy life of the tea estate and the theatrical They didn't have the bottle to wars were over. They had come a long way in 14 years leave Spock dead after The from being the products of two of the best-known and wealth-Wrath Of Khan. 29. The Klingon spaceship called the P'Rang. 35. Whonpi Goldberg. 41. You can always tell who's going to die. 52. They had a chicken farm at Rock Hill, my planet called Draion 2, 67, Whenever the cast travel in time, it's always into Ameri-US Harper's Bazaar (quite a different publication from the can history, never anyone previous Harper's) introduces else's. 91. Lt. Uhura, First de-Ondaatje to those who have so cent role for a black woman on far only drooled over the posters for the film of his novel The English Patient. network TV and what does she get to do? Answer the space phone for the white guy. Neon mag commits sacrilege: for a more orthodox approach try our Friday Keview section.

You can E-mail us, uv re jackdawa guardian.cv.uk.; fax 0171-713-4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

up the moon. Troi's insight? "I Edited by Vanessa Harlowe

ersity

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Top financier suspected of helping insider dealers

CORPORATE IL to the top of one of London's biggest investment banks is suspected of being the primary source for price-sensi-tive information used by a tive information used by a possible City insider-dealing ring.

A full-scale inquiry by the chase of around 22 million

ring.

A full-scale inquiry by the Department of Trade & Industry into the ring — first disclosed in the Guardian earlier try into the ring — first dis-closed in the Guardian earlier this month — is focusing on trying to prove links between the summer of last year. the corporate financier and the and the most prolific member of the shares three days before

the suspected dealing ring. While the latter cannot be named, he is a former stock-broker who now lives in

As a high-rolling investor, he has been using an invest-ment vehicle registered in Andorra, the principality between Spain and France, and routes his deals via a small brokerage firm in Monaco into London, where a network of small stockbrokers handles

The DTI investigation which is believed to have in-volved the most sophisticated surveillance operation ever ity investors was a mounted by City regulators— the time of the deal. has uncovered evidence of a Shares in Rothmans issisciory. There should be no tightly organised group of injumped almost 10 per cent in excuse why the Stock Ex-

TRICKEN DIY retailer

its finances following the £42

million fraud discovered in

the summer. But analysis and

tovestors said the company

still faced an uphill battle to become viable; they believe

its best hope lies in being

Chief executive Bill Grim-

sey acknowledged yesterday that he had received expres-sions of interest from poten-

tial buyers but was concen-

trating on getting the chain back to profitability.

after the departure of former boss Henry Sweetbaum when

the fraud emerged, said: "We

have a strong trading posi-tion, strong sales growth; we now understand the trading

not have a clear picture of the company's profit margins and

were not convinced Wickes

would make a profit next year.

margins and the cost base." But analysts said they did

Mr Grimsey, who took over

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26.70

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They are believed to have made huge sums from ad-vance knowledge of several high-profile mergers and takeovers, going back a num-

ber of years.
The DTI is looking into suspicious dealings in the shares of up to 10 companies.

worth of shares in BTR Nylex.

BTR announced it was buying out minority shareholders for £2 billion — a move which triggered a 40 per cent jump in the Nylex share price. It has also emerged that deals before the takeover of tobacco group, in the spring of last year, are being analysed as part of the investiga-

The suspicion that some investors were acting with advance knowledge that Richemont, the Swiss holding company, was about to spend £1.6 billion buying out minority investors was flagged at time.
the time of the deal.
"It is unhealthy and unsat-

its profits the DIY way

holder said the company's fi-nancial state was still fragile even after the rights issue,

and it lacked strong retail

strategic position in the industry," he said. Wickes' precarlous state is

reflected in the price of the rights issue, which will raise \$53 million. Shareholders are

being offered one new share

KipperWilliams

Wickes hopes to rebuild

One institutional share-older said the company's fi-ancial state was still fragile ven after the rights issue, larities in buying arrange-

on the takeover was rushed out, and insiders would have

made a profit of almost 30 per

While there is no suggest

tion that employees at any of

all are thought to have furnished the DTI with informa-

tion. Rothmans had no com-

ment on the matter yesterday. Other individuals under in-

stigation include two for-

Insider dealing

network

struck in

4 Information

Lord Swaythling, Rothmans' then chairman, de-manded a stock market inquiry. "There has been a leak. I am furious," he said at the

ers yesterday, the directors warned that the company

would go into receivership

without the rights issue and

associated capital restructur-ing. But even with the pro-ceeds from the issue, debts at

the year end are likely to be more than the restored share

holders' funds, resulting in substantial interest costs.

Shareholders are also told that losses for 1996 could be as

high as £56 million. In the

nine months to September Wickes made a loss before tax

of £53 million. Mr Grimsey said Wickes

would sell or close its opera-

The rights issue prospectus will be published today and will show that Mr Grimsey

and finance director Bill Hos-

kins, who have 12-month con-tracts, have been awarded op-tions on shares worth three times their salaries.

tions on the Continent.

small off and gas flotations.

The other continues to live in Britain, managing the investment of his family's money. Investigators are looking at a vehicle he uses in Contacted at his home in

the South-east yesterday, the former fund manager denied any knowledge of the DTI in-quiry or any wrongdoing. "If the investigators are doing their job, I am sure my name will be cleared very quickly,"

At least four stockbroking firms have been drawn into the affair. Two individual brokers who are under suspicion have been fired by their firms within the past two

Investigators are having to unravel a complex web of offshore companies and trusts through which share transac-tions have been routed, and they are said to have been hampered by a lack of co-operation from the Monaco and

Andorra authorities.

The inquiry, which has involved all the main City regulators, including the Serious Fraud Office, is being run under Section 177 of the Financial Services Act, which allows for DTI inspectors to be appointed when insider-dealing laws are thought to mer fund managers. One is a

How ring operates

EMBERS of the dealing
Wiring are understood to
be prolific users of a trading
mechanism known in the
City as "cash & new."
It is effectively a way of
betting on credit, and it is frowned upon by many stockbrokers. The mechahe the target company or basis that the investor does not have to pay — "settle" — for up to 25 working days.

Around about "day 20," if

ing news has not yet emerged, the investor selfs the shares for immediate settlement, and then buys the stock back again on the 25-day "delayed settlement"

repeated several times, allowing a big position in a company to be rolled for

"cash & new-ed", the investor pays for, or profits from, any move in the share price. Such deale attract a small dealer carrying out the trade. They also attract the attra-

Plastering over the cracks



Edited by Alex Brummer

AFTER two years of deliberations and consultations the Securities & Investment Board, the leading City regulator, has finally moved to close a gaping hole in the financial community's defences against insider traddefences against insider tran-ing. It has been axiomatic that almost every bid in the 1990s has been heralded by sharp movements in the cash share prices, partly as a result of contracts entered into in the derivatives market. The most highly con-tested bid of the 15-months, the Granada battle for Forte, was signalled by several days of heavy options trading, which has been particularly difficult for the regulators to track and has been beyond

the remit of the criminal inalder trading legislation. Under a new set of princi-ples now outlined by SIB, such use of derivatives or inbasis of insider information, will be strictly forbidden. City firms will be required to write into their internal controls new rules effectively tives in takeover situations. In some respects, the new rules go beyond the criminal insider trading law in which it is possible to argue that be-

cause information has been widely disseminated, no of-fence has been committed. Much of the regulatory interest in stamping out deriva-tives trading ahead of takeover bids arises from the use by the Swiss Bank Corporaences in a number of utilities at the time of Trafalgar House's failed bid for Northern Electric in December 1994, the first time this technique had been used in a prospective takeover. This use of derivatives for "bid facilitation" — the hope of benefitting from prices rises in the target company and the sec-tor once the bid becomes pub-

lic — is also now verbotem. Sir Andrew Large and the SIB deserve credit for moving to stamp out what has been a serious market abuse, avail-able largely to professionals with a clear understanding of tives markets. However, as in the case of pensions mis-sell-ing the snail-like speed at which the City authorities work — when faced with a serious challenge to the integ-

Private grief

deeply disturbing.

T MUST be galling for Sir Colin Marshall, BA chair-man and CBI president, to meet resistance overseas when he tries to fly the flag

ments have been doing just that. Word that the privatised utilities are not all they were cracked up to be has got abroad, it seems. The name of privatisation is tarnished. Sir Colin is an activist and

has decided to put the record straight. He has called for the help of every privatised com-pany chief and the top dogs from banks, law firms and acon Britain's privatisation programme to champion the cause. At an inaugural meet-ing of the group (attended by 45 of the 74 firms invited) yes-terday he called it a "collective promotional effort in the national interest, for the national good."

It sounds good. But this is a dog-eared enterprise.
First, the idea was high-jacked by the Tory high com-mand who claimed it was a fight back against Labour's windfall tax plans, Result: many of the invitees recogtics to get involved.

Now the group has given a ties until after the election. That retreat clearly draws the political sting and could be enough to make Tony Blair as well as the Margaret Thatcher's closest kin feel comfort-

Privatisation is an earner for Britain. And there is an argument that its name should be kept polished up so that British companies and banks stay in the van. But Sir the world that privatisation

It is easy to suggest that the bad name of British Gas, Yorkshire Water, and the great collective of Utility Fat Cats is all the product of senpeople would believe that US companies are buying up the electricity industry because they are highly efficient or-ganisations run under tight, And wonderful if enthusiastic leaping to ape the British model in its entirity. But foreign governments

picking bits from the privatithe British experiment has failed and the dangers of or-Companies like BA should

be wary too. While the utilities are in such a mess, successful firms will only get tarnished by association.

Royal error

ORGET the gles with which critics of the European Monetary Union have leaped upon differences Germany and France, over the intricacies of the stability pact. Today, simultaneously in Dublin and Frankfurt, the enemy will be seen for the first time with the release of specimen euro notes.

Fearful of arousing nationalist ire the new notes are understood to have used symbols such as bridges, repre senting the links to the past, and open windows pointing to the future. Also missing, of for privatisation.

Yet in recent months, officials from foreign governportunities to the sceptics.

M&G punished as Regulator investors pull out

NE of Britain's biggest independent fund managers, M&G, said yesterday that unit trust investors had cashed in almost one-tenth of their holdings after the group's unit trusts arm suffered one of its poorest years on record. M&G, which manages some

£6.3 billion worth of unit

trusts, said it had been pun-ished for its "disappointing year" with a record increase in the number of customers cashing in their investments. The company said it had suffered a 47 per cent jump in redemptions over the year, to 2584 million, although David Morgan, M&G's group managing director, insisted the fig-ure was "considerably lower"

than the industry average.

M&G's traditional policy of investing in high-yielding stocks and smaller companies has left its retail funds among the poorest performing in the unit trust industry this year. However, the group said other factors had played a part, not least fears among small investors that markets on both sides of the Adaptic on both sides of the Atlantic had reached worryingly high levels. M&G also said it had

suffered a small sell-off around the time of the Mor-gan Grenfell affair, with some investors mistakenly assum-ing the two were related. But Mr Morgan insisted closed 4p higher at in that the level of redemptions news of the figures.

had not come as a shock to the company, and said he ex-pected an improvement in the performance of M&G's funds, perticularly as the economic cycle was starting to favour high-yielding stocks. He added: "The industry as

a whole has experienced higher redemption levels than last year and, compared with the industry, our redemptions have been low. In addition, there have been lots of new products launched, and with mature funds people want to try new things — and we have more customers, so we're bound to have higher redemption

Mr Morgan said M&G would also be examining its pay structure to ensure fund managers' remuneration reflected their performance

more accurately.

Despite the high number of unit trust redemptions.

M&G's Pep business enjoyed record sales during the year, hoisting the amount of Pep funds under management by

31 per cent to \$2.6 billion.
At the same time, the group's institutional fund management arm also succeeded in winning some £490 million in new business. bringing the amount of insti-tutional funds under manage ment to \$5.5 billion.

In total, full-year pre-tax profits rose by 16 per cent, to profits rose by 16 per cent, to acknowledged that controls in acknowledged that controls in its private client banking operation were not up to SFA standards.

fines bank £5,000 for rogue trader

HE Securities and Futures Authority yesterday fined the London branch of Denmark's biggest bank £5,000 for letting one of its traders deal in shares without proper authorisation.

The trader himself, Ole Rasmussen, who was fined £5,000 for dealing on behalf of private clients without receiving any instructions from them. has since been dismissed by Den Danske Bank.
The bank has paid compen

sation to what it says is "a handful" of clients who lost out from Mr Rasmussen's ac-tivities in the first half of 1994. Den Danske, which is not saying how much it has had to pay, has closed its Lon-don private banking division but is continuing institutional business.

Mr Rasmussen, who is be lieved to have returned to Denmark, "clearly understood that he was not permitted to undertake discretionary trading" the SFA disciplinary tribunal concluded. On a separate matter, the

SFA found that Mr Rasmus-

sen had carried out unauthorised deals for his personal account. Den Danske, which yester day agreed to pay £5,000 towards the authority's costs. acknowledged that controls in

Mark of distinction . . . Nigel Bowerbank pays £80,000 for his name PHOTOGRAPH: WAYNE STAFF Money on a plate for the Treasury

number plate bearing his Nigel Bowerbank kept his nerve during frantic bidding at the DVLA's Classic Personali Collection auction in central London.

The price of £60,000 for NI GEL - with £20,000 VAT and commission added on top — narrowly beat other big prices of £51,500 paid for 1P and £48,500 for IV. However, other names did not even come close, as an estimated £1.5 million was raised at the auction

for the Treasury. Mr Bowerbank, who runs

45-year-old Essex busi-nessman yesterday on his Rolls-Royce. the cheapest of the 80 lots on his Rolls-Royce. the said: "I'm very £3,800. pleased to have got it. It's

> Personalised number plates have become big business over recent years with specialist dealers offering thousands of num-

Tony Dark, 35, paid out £26,000, excluding VAT and commission, for 1 UK — to put on a lorry at his firm, UK Packaging, based in north London. For some bidders, the

auction was a chance to the auction record for one buy a loved one a Christ- of the DVLA's classic regis-Name Bank Numbers Ltd. mas present to remember. selling personalised telephone numbers, said he was looking forward to put- shocked by the prices, with £250,000. mas present to remember.
Others among the crowd of more than 200 were which fetched almost

They preferred to watch an investment, really, but the spectacle and ensure it would look good on my Rolls-Royce." the wrong time. Many of the successful

bidders preferred to keep their identities secret with a significant proportion of them being telephone bidders. The DVLA decided to capitalise on registrations

which have become vacant and have held a number of sales similar to yesterday's.
The price of £60,000 for
NI GEL fell well short of

Safety net for care insurance

Richard Miles

UYERS of insurance Bachemes to pay for care in old age will be granted the full protection of the 1986 Financial Services Act under Treasury plans an-Placing long-term care in-

surance under the act will bring the products within the scope of the Investors Compensation Scheme, the ultimate safety net for consumers advice or negligence. The ICS can pay up to £48,000 in

The Treasury's detailed plans for the selling and mar-

ment published yesterday. A | their needs in old age.

partnership schemes for the care of the elderly is expected from the Department of Health early next year. The Treasury officials hope to implement the changes, if

dustry and other interested parties, through a statutory instrument, so avoiding the need to seek a slot in the crowded parliamentary Insurance companies.

which have been lobbying for tighter regulation of longterm care insurance, welcomed the proposals. Commercial Union, the

market leader, said the move would boost consumer confiketing of care policies are set | dence and encourage more out in a consultative docu- people to plan responsibly for

Australia 2.0170 france 8.3275
Austria 17.37 Germany 2.47
Belgium 50.88 Greece 393.00
Carada 2.19
Cyprus 0.7460 India 59.83

haly 2,468 Maita 0.5780 Netherlands 2.7740 New Zealend 2.2985 Norway 10.376 Portugal 250.00 Saudi Arabia 6.15 Hong Kong 12.44 India 59.63

Americans use whisky to lure EU into ending trade tariffs

Larry Elliott in Singapore

COTCH whisky distillers are set to be surprise beneficiaries from a deal between the European Union and the Americans about the world's formation technology, it

emerged yesterday.

Washington agreed to speed up the removal of US tariffs on European brown spirits whisky and brandy — as a 'sweetener" to win Brussels approval for a transatiantic hi-tech agreement finally se-cured in Singapore yesterday. With the big US producers

of information technology products desperate to get open access to the lucrative European market, American negotiators also approved a five-year plan to phase out tariffs on white spirits, in-cluding gin and vodka.

The breakthrough was being hailed yesterday as a prime success for the first World Trade Organisation,

which ends today.

However, the deal will only come into force if other tions agree to open trade in

The EU and the US want the agreement to cover 90 per cent of global trade, and have set a dearline for mid-Murch for nations, notably Asian states, to sign up. Last night, it was clear that

Brussels and Washington were already close to getting the necessary 90 per cent, with Japan, Canada, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and nine other countries on

WTO officials are confident that the agreement will provide impetus to separate talks on opening up telecommunicompleted by the middle of

February.
"It is vital for just about every industry in the world," said one WTO source. "The consequences are enormous. It will mean people all over the globe will have access to information. A doctor in the remote parts of Africa might, cess to information to help IT products."

Trade and Industry Secre-tary, Ian Lang, said: "This is very good news. Britain is a major player in the IT scene secure this deal."

Sir Leon Brittan, European commissioner for trade policy, said the IT deal represented the biggest step for-ward for free trade since the end of the Uruguay Round three years ago. "This is a huge advance for the world

economy," he said. Europe has higher tariffs on information technology than either the US or Japan, but agreed to the deal when the Americans threw in the tariff cuts on spirits.

Sir Leon, under pressure from the French, refused to accept the US definition of computer software, fearful that Hollywood would use CD-Roms as a backdoor way of exporting films to Europe.

Brussels was forced to give way on graphic display tubes and fibre optic strands after intense lobbying by US

agreement, tariffs will begin to be phased out in July and will be gone by the turn of the century. EU sources said that they would be happy to see full implementation by the start of 1998, stressing that freer global markets would boost Europe's 266 billion-ayear trade in IT. They said the deal on spirits would give European producers an extra 221 million in tariff cuts every

"We are naturally very excited at the news," said Lee Chan Ho, managing director at LG, South Korea's secondbiggest electronics producer. "Zero tariffs will enable us to more than double our profits

The ITA "is very important for the whole of British industry, which benefits from cheap and readily-available supplies of IT products from whatever sources around the world they want to take them from," Christopher Roberts, Britain's director general of which is just being trade policy, told the Bloomberg Forum. "The greatest beneficiaries are the users of indicated that the initial in-



Talking head . . . Stamens chief executive, Heinrich von Pierer, is committed to group's UK expansion, while number of people it employs in Germany is falling PHOTOGRAPH: CAMAY SUNGU

Siemens pledges to expand its £1bn Tyneside chip plant despite recent collapse in market

Nicholas Bannister reports from Munich interest of a group which sees its future abroad on a group which sees its future abroad of the century.

The North-east had feered in Britain would not be affected in Britain would not be affected in five years, but the late profits. on a group which sees its future abroad

electronics and electrical at a lower rate than expected and that the second phase yesterday committed itself to might not be started until building the second phase of its new £1.1 billion semi-conductor plant in North Tyne-side but warned that it might be several years before the ex-

pension took place.
The second phase is expected to generate 800 new jobs on top of the 1,000 due to be created by the first phase

Indicated that the initial in- tor market, who

IEMENS, the German vestment was creating jobs electronics and electrical at a lower rate than expected the early part of the next

About 500 people have al-ready been recruited and this is likely to rise to about 750 by

the end of next year, well be-low the initial target. Heinrich von Pierer, Sie-mens' chief executive, said yesterday that the start of the second phase would be de-layed because of the recent and the government."

He added that while Siemupleted. layed because of the recent collapse of the semi-conduc-

the setback in the computer chip market could lead to the second phase being abandoned or moved to the Far "I do not know when we are

going to start the second phase," said Mr von Pierer. The semi-conductor market is really down at the moment and it would not make sense to build up further capacity. "But we are sticking to our basic plans. We will just have to adjust the timing to the market. The investment is in facied by the UK govern-ment's lack of enthusiasm for monetary union.

Mr von Pierer said the group had no plans to move the second phase develop-ment to a low-cost Asian country. 'In the case of a highly automated computer chip factory, the labour cost does not play a large part in the investment decist "Labour costs are 50 per cent lower in Newcastle than in Germany but only account for about 15 per cent of the

major part."
Mr von Pierer, speaking at

ployed 379,000, the first in-crease in five years, but the numbers employed in Ger-

Within the last three years our domestic workforce actually was cut by 60,000," he said. "This reduction was offset by the hiring of some 30,000 new employees."
But Mr von Plerer said that

Siemens, Germany's largest employer, would have more than half its employees lo-cated outside the country for the first time within the next two years. He pointed out that personnel costs in Germany had risen 7 per cent last year. He also forecast that International businesses would ac-

cent over the past two years, to DM2.5 billion (£1 billion) before exceptional items.

this year. But he expected profits to cal and electronics businesse caught up with Germany's

Siemens expects continued problems with its industrial and building systems group, its medical engineering systems group and its composhould be offset by improve-ments in other parts of the

BY OUR 14 DAYS NO QUIBBLE

MONEY BACK PROMISE

AND LIFETIME PRODUCT

WARRANTY.

Scotch makers distil the news with caution

ien King

COTCH whisky manu-Sfacturers gave a guarded reaction to news of the deal between the European Union and the United States to liberal-ise trade in their area.

The industry's trade body, the Scotch Whisky Association, has cam-paigned for the removal or reduction of tariffs. In particular it has accused Japan — already ordered to Japan — already of the torreform its liquor taxes by the World Trade Organisation — of dragging out the changes following the failure of talks last month.

forward reform is good news, but we wouldn't get too excited by this," Mr Evans said. "But if it means

which is a very big market for us, and China, which is potentially a huge market it will be good news — espe cially if we can exert pres-sure on Japan to speed

things up."
Individual producers were equally wary of the news, just three weeks after Chancellor Kenneth Clarke reduced domestic duty on whisky for the second year running.

Murray Loak, spokesman for Guinness — whose whisky brands include Johnnie Walker, Bells and Dewars — said the deal was only of "symbolic benefit". although he hoped it would encourage other countries, particularly Chile and

news but its real significance was the longer term "knock-on effect" it could have on Japan and countries wishing to join the WTO, such as China.

"Anything that brings forward reform is good news, but we was the longer term of high," he added. "What is maybe a couple of cents on a typical bottle of scotch, so what is important here is the message that

news, but we wouldn't get too excited by this," Mr Evans said. "But if it means we can put pressure on countries like Taiwan, be very welcome."

New hands on oldest

VACHERON Constantin, the world's oldest watchmaker, has been bought by Vendome, the maker of lux-ury goods, from the former Saudi oil minister. Shelkh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, it emerged yesterday, writes

watchmaker

Sheikh Yamani (pictured), the leading force behind the two oil-price shocks of the 1970s and 1980s, sold Genevabased Vacheron, founded in 1755, for an undisclosed sum. He has been the majority shareholder since 1987 and will maintain close links.

Vendome already owns such prestige names in watchmaking as Cartier, Piaget and



Dunhill, which makes luxury goods such as luggage, clga-rette-lighters and perfume. It is 70 per cent owned by South African-controlled Richemont Securities.

News in brief

De Vere Hotels sale ruled out

THE pubs and hotels group Greenalls yesterday ruled out the sale of its 20-strong De Vere Hotels chain, despite reports that the bulk of the hotels would be sold. "There have been reports in the press of the sale of De Vere Hotels but the company has no plans to sell De Vere Hotels at this stage," a spokesman for Greenalls said. However, he admitted there was "likely to be a change in the shape of the De Vere hotels division" as the company speeded up "the process of upgrading the portfolio". It announced the long-awaited sale of its six hotels in the US for £14 million last week. Yesterday, the group posted pre-tax profits of £148.7 million, a jump of 48 per cent, largely on the back of its Boddington pubs acquisition last year. — Reuter

Scottish Hydro buy-out

SCOTTISH Hydro, the electricity group which has made several aggressive moves into the English power station market, indicated yesterday it was preparing to spend some £250 million to buy out its partner, United Utilities, in the Keadby power station project. The move was announced as the group announced that its pre-tax profits for the first six months of the year stayed relatively flat on £51.3 million.

London Electricity, one of the few regional companies not to have received a formal bid approach, saw its interim profits slide 18 per cent to £69.3 million as the group felt the bite of two separate regulatory price reviews. — Simon Becois

Harvey Nichols blooms

HARVEY Nichols, the fashionable store in Knightsbridge, west HARVEY NICHOLS, the lashionable store in Knightsbridge, west London, said yesterday it was sharing in the retail boom, with sales in the six months to September up by 16 per cent and that rate of growth continuing up to Christmas. The store, which is controlled by the Hong Kong company Dickson Concepts but floated on the stock market earlier this year, reported pre-tax profit for the half year up from £4.1 million to £5.5 million despite the extra costs of setting up a new store in Leeds and new ventures such as the Oxo Tower restaurant on the south bank of the Thames in central London. — Nicholas Bannister

Acquisitions bolster Mail

PRE-tax profits at Dally Mail and General Trust, the publisher and media company, this year rose 8.3 per cent as the higher cost of newsprint was outweighed by new acquisitions. The company, which publishes the Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday, said pre-tax profit for the year ended September 29, before exceptional gains and charges, rose to £38.6 million from £30.0 million.

Exceptional items in fiscal 1996 included reorganisation costs

of £8.1 million, a special dividend from its stake in the Press Association of 53.3 million and gains on the sale of business and other assets. The company said it will pay a dividend of 19.4p per share, up 9 per cent. — Bloomberg

Hoover in court

A COURT hearing began yesterday whose outcome could spark further legal action against Hoover by hundreds of people denied free trips. Merseyside county court heard evidence from two of 14 people seeking compensation for the free flights to which they claim entitlement but which they never received. The hearing was adjourned until January 9, Hundreds of other victims have contacted the plaintiffs' solicitors. Some 600,000 people claimed contacted the plaining's solicitors, some output people claimed free flights from Hoover following a special offer that began in 1992. But only about 225,000 people ever got their trips. The embarrassing episode cost Hoover's former US parent, Maytag, some 248 million before it sold Hoover Buropean Appliances at a loss to Candy group last year. — Rachel Boird



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Racing

New jockey for the Grand National winner's seasonal debut tomorrow. Ron Cox reports

Thornton sets out on Haydock quest

OUGH QUEST, the Grand National winner, will have a new jockey when he makes his seasonal debut at Haydock tomorrow.

Andrew Thornton steps in for the ride in the Tommy Whittle Chase because Mick Fitzgerald, who coolly steered Rough Quest to victory at Aintree, is required at Cheltenham Cheltenham.

Terry Casey, Rough Quest's

rainer, is unconcerned that a new jockey will be partnering his gelding. "Andrew hasn't been able to school the horse but he's an uncomplicated ride and it shouldn't be a problem," he said yesterday.

Thornton, who rides regularly for Kim Balley and Tim Forster, has steadily in-creased his winning tally since he landed the amateur riders' title in the 1992/93 campaign and last season rode 52 winners.

Rough Quest is being thrown in at the deep end on his return to action as he will have to cross swords with

However, the conditions of the race are in Rough Quest's favour. He gets 12lb from One Man and there is only 9lb between them on current offi-

cial ratings.
"I couldn't be more pleased with him but he's a big, burly horse and he's going to need the run," said Casey. "The main thing is that he completes the course in one piece." "We want to aim Rough Quest at the King George and then we have both the Gold Cup and Grand National in mind. As long as the ground is good to soft at Haydock I'll

The prevailing fast ground



Close call . . . Yahmi takes the final flight with Jack Tanner (nearest camera) on his way to victory at Sandown yesterday

be happy. The only reason I down where he saddled didn't go to Cheltenham was because the ground was on the firm side."

Old travelled on to Sandown where he saddled yahmi, in the Collier Bay colours, to floor the odds laid on Jack Tannar in the Boyis

dramatic change in the Tennessee Twist and when he and see how I am in the weather for him to run," said was beaten in handicaps he morning."

trainer Jim Old after walking the course yesterday said Old after Yahmi's nar-morning.

Old travelled on to San-is at last fulfilling his poten-

down where he saddled tial, but he may have had a bit of luck on his side. Adrian Maguire dis on Jack Tanner in the Bovis mounted from Jack Tanner Crowngap Winter Novice and revealed he was not firmeans that Collier Bay is virtually certain to miss tomorrow's Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham. "There will have to be a rior Risk, Whattabob and will talk to David Nicholson

Maguire still managed to hadly kicked by another run-win the first three races at ner in the melee. He lay mo-Sandown and, flu or not, is flying compared to his great tually walked away to be sure to go close on Daraydan (3.05). A useful stayer on the flat at his best, Daraydan may have found his Chepstow Sandown and, flu or not, is flying compared to his great rival Tony McCoy.

Bruised in a fall at Plump-ton on Tuesday, the reigning champion was ruled out of action for the weekend after being stood down for concussion at Taunion yesterday.
Riding Iktasab in the West
Hatch Novice Hurdle, McCoy
came down at the final flight when in fifth place and was

brought back in an race behind Mighty Moss

ambulance.
Course doctor Roger Lambert said: "McCoy will miss the next two days as the rules state that if the concussion is of a minor nature the jockey cannot ride for three days." McCoy did not have the four seasons at stud in Japan. strongest book of rides at He will stand at Coolmore at a Cheltenham today, but looked | fee of IR 12,500gns.

coming too soon after an im-pressive debut win at Leicester. He deserves another Dr Devious, the 1992 Derby winner, is to return to Ireland after Christmas following

Sport in brief

Bowlers speed India to series win over SA

INDIA lost no time in rounding off their first series victory over South Africa yesterday with a 280-run win in the deciding third Test in Kanpur, the medium-pacer Javagal Srinath and the left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi combining to reduce the tourists, set 461 to win, from 127 for five overnight to 180 all out. The return three-Test series starts in Durban on Boxing Day.

Australia's Steve Waugh is fit again and replaces Stuart Law in the World Series one-day match against Pakistan in Adelaide

Third time lucky for Robidoux

ALAIN ROBIDOUX converted his third consecutive appearance in a world-ranking quarter-final into a place in tomorrow's semi-finals of the German Open by beating the world No. 11 Dave

Harold 5-4 at Osnabrück, writes Clive Everton.

The Canadian No. 1 did well to recover from two mid-match The Canadian No. 1 did well to recover from two mid-match setbacks. One failure at an easy red when 34 in front in the fourth frame and another when 65 ahead in the fifth led to Harold clearances of 95 and 74 respectively, Robidoux falling 3-2 behind. At 4-4 and 38-0, something similar loomed. "He potted a great long red," said Robidoux, "and he'd been scoring so heavily I thought I might not get another chance." Harold, however, snatched at a middle-pocket pink on 25 to let Robidoux in for the clinching 38—which at least left Harold free to use his Stoke City season ticket for tomorrow's visit of Swindon Town.

Gerg leads a German one-two

HILDE GERG showed the field a clean pair of skis in winning yesterday's World Cup super-G at Val d'Isère. The only woman to go under Imin 8sec, she was nearly 0.4sec clear of her fellow German Katja Seizinger, the World Cup champion. The super-G world champion, Isolde Kostner of Italy, was third. An unnamed New Zealander has been banned for two years

over the stimulant methamphetamine. The skier, not a member of the national team, tested positive at an International Skiing Federation series at Coronet Peak in August.

The American downhill racer Picabo Street yesterday had surgery on the knee ligaments torn during practice for last weekend's Vail World Cup events. She expects to be out for six months.

Subaru to keep McRae busy

THE 1995 world rally champion Colin McRae, along with Kenneth Eriksson and Piero Liatti, has been retained by Subaru for next season's expanded championship, with the Scot pencilled in to contest all 14 rounds of the series. The three were kept on after winning successive manufacturers' titles for the Japanese com-pany. Eriksson, the Asia-Pacific champion, and Liatti will focus on gravel and asphalt surfaces.

Hall in form in Jakarta

ENGLAND's Darren Hall continued his winning run in the qualifying round of the badminton World Cup Championship in Jakarta, following up his Group A victory over China's Chen Gang with a 15–12, 4–15, 15–10 win over Taiwan's Fung Permadi.

Prean to the fore in China

CARL PREAN, the England table tennis No. 3, reached the World Professional Grand Prix quarter-finals in Tianjin, China by beating the German Steffan Fetzner 21–19, 21–13, 21–15 yesterday.

Doncaster runners and riders

12.35 Lengting No. 1.10 Results Not To

2.20 Canary Falcon
2.56 EASTERN MAGIC (a

12.05 SANCY KIT NONCE HANDLE SIN 41 12,547 V2-123 WERRERT LODGE (14) (BF) K Bailey 7-11-5 ... 212 RM AT THE TOP (10) (D) J Norton 4-11-6 ... 45 CYPRESS AVECUE (10) Mrs V Ward 4-10-12 AL (7) B

6-P DOUGAL (7) B Robwell 5-10-12
6-P GUITERBOOK (1-1) T Kedy 6-10-12
6-S2-O TWERDSWE FORT (1-6) M Monde 6-10-12
6-S2-O TWERDSWEOOD (20) (MF) P Besumon 6-10-12
6-S-SP MESP (17) J O'Shea 5-10-7
00 TOSHERA ROUESE (47) B Edison 5-10-7 TOP POSSI TIPS him At The Top 8, Herbert Lodge 7, Two Settings 6-4 Heybert Lodge, 7-4 km At The Top, 4-1 Tweedown S5-1 Doggel, Teshiba House, Quiteridge.

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- 8	D	INUDICARK (27) J Norton 4-11-7	
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	w	DISPOL CONQUEROR P Career 3-10-7	E Sherry
- 1	ter.	LAUGHTED BUCCAMER (14) D Carry 3-10-7	E Fenton
	***	ARCH ANGEL (25) G Charles-Jones 3-10-2	D Bridgenter
10	- 00	SMANOCEA (26) Mrs N Macauley 3-10-2	E Hosberd (2)
11	- 40		

Lingfield all-weather Flat programme

_b Melform 10 _B Riggs 84 _M Reberts 6 _A Duly (8) 11 _Candy Morris 14 _Declar O'Shee 9 _J Quien 12

3,15 Sh

1.10 RED STIE HOVICE CHASE IN C1.750 1:0022-(RESIDUDE MOT TO (22) (D) O Sherwood 7-1 U-22 ELTE (GOVERNOS (41) M LIMPOT 7-11-0 PIG-CAS (CEY TO BOYADES (11) M Wildeson 5-11-0 80 SHOWDON ULY (6) P Webber 5-10-0

tings 1—1 Berutio Not To, 6—1 Elite Governor, S-1 Key To Moyade, 33—1 Sno

1 1.25 KERSTEN PROMOTIONS HANDICAP (DIV I) SE 12,534

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00000 MASTER OF PASSON (21) (D) D Suston 7-8-11
15453 CHERKY CHAPPY (14) (CD) D Capmen 8-8100000 WHICKESH 80'V (8) (D) J Bodry 6-8-10
(D) ASSKEDBARY (7-10) (D) N Serry 5-8-10
50056 SASSPGI BRAYE (28) (D) B Bergs 5-8-7
500000 DESTART SYMLSTY (38) (CD) B Perce 6-7-3

11.55 LADEROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY BANDICAP (Dir 1) 1m 22,816

55 LADERONE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY BANDSCAP (
2013) THERE OF LIFE (5) (CO) M JORNSON 3-9-13
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26-006. JORNSON SCHOLAR (170) K MEAUSING 3-9-13
2006 DOUBLE MARCH (41) P Webber 3-9-5
2009 SHANGARSON (20) (C) A Moore 4-6-13
2009-50 ROYAL CARLTON (110) G1 Moore 4-6-1
2019-30 ROYAL CARLTON (110) G1 Moore 4-6-5
2019-30 PRESS ADARIX (3) P Propriet 4-2
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405-00 PRESSE ADARIX (3) P Propriet 4-2
20700 SHANGARI LE, (30) M Fesher 3-0-7
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25 GOLD AS CHARSTY HANDICAP to 34 C2,927

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TOP FORM TIPE General Viewer S, Bascod 7, Our Main Han S

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10:003 PATHER DAN (20) (CD) Mass Gay Kellewiy
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10:002 PATHER DAN (20) (C) B Mochan 10-0-10
10:002 PATHER AND (20) M Polylaso 4-10
10:003 SERBAR (21) M Polylaso 4-10
11:200 ZERBO (24) (CD) N TUMO 4-10
11:200 ZERBO (24) (CD) N TUMO 4-10

1.00 APPLE A DAY APPRENTICE LIGHTED STAKES THE 21 52,386

11.55 Ertion

205-09 PAST MASTER (41) S Gollege 8-1-205-09 TELIAY PARTOS (41) J Golds 4-1 (190-5 TROTAO (36) C Parker 8-10-5 20909-0 RAGAZZO (5) J Watterfight 8-10-0 TOP FORM TIPS: Past Meeter B. Causey Fel

2.55 DONCASTER BACKCOURSE SPONSORSHIP CLUB MARRIAF CRAIK See 11094 Sections 7-4 Zerocker, 2-1 Eastern Marie, 3-1 Flora Harvest, 8-1 Mendralt Prince

Buttings 5-2 Fattsful Hand, 11-4 Cennry Feften, 4-1 Out On A Pro-Teology's attch, 16-7 Respects.

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TOP FORM TIPE, Fether Dan B. Zahld 7, Can Can Charle 6

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SOLD SPURGERY WATER C7.77 TABS 9-6

SOLD SPURGERY MARRICAP (C3) Library 9-3

TOURS SEAVERLY MESS (483 (D) J. Bridger 9-1

SOLD THE WYAMROTTE MM (10) (BF) R Hollection 6-10

SOLD THE WYAMROTTE MM (10) (BF) R Hollection 6-10

SOLD SPURGERY COLF MOVER (56) T Marginan 6-10

SOLD SPURGERY CALLED (10) J. Alchurat 8-9

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SOLD LITTLE PROGRESS (58) T. Jones 7-13

helding: 9-C Thrasphay, 5-1 The Wyandotte Inn, Kitudisa Lad, 6-1 Bold Spring, 6-1 Eager To Please larcipos Cop. 10-1 Sensina's Nayhaw. 12-1 Hover Golf Mover.

Bettings 9-4 Keler, 3-1 Nepler Star, 5-1 Festiverstone Lane, 6-1 NRJas, 16-1 SRs Cottage. Dezmere, 12-1 Denoing Jack, 16-1 Retnyholms.

ps. TIPS: Supress Malmoon 8, Royal Poulette 7, Sidney The Kidney 6

etings 2-1 Supremo Maimoon, 17-4 Royal Rodette, 7-2 Hatimant, 8-1 Never Goll Lover, 10-1 Stoney The lony, Dozen Rosse, 12-1 Forms(debte Spirit.

.5 Drowne 5 .T G McLungh

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TOP PORM 71PE Souty Term 8, Souking 7, Shenhaire 8

3.30 doncaster market only standard open his flat hace de 110745 e1,070 BEJOYFUL (293) Mrs S Lamymen 4-11-4 ... 0 SANTA BARBARA (10) C Grant 5-11-4 .

Cheltenham card with guide to the form

2.45 Wee Windy

12.15 LETHINY & CHRISTOPHER HOYICE BUILDLE SYD 2- 17 E3,708

PSU ASPROGANT HESR (45) D Brown 11-0 CLEASEY CHEST (3) J Wals 11-0 ...
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1988: Our Kris 3 11 7 M A Pitrywraid 3-1 (N J Reprintment) 14 cm Buttings 5-1 Dissilowed, 5-1 Influence Pedier, Brandon Mingle, 7-1 Society Magic, Pic Chief, 12-1 Topoglow, 20-1 Get Tough

ucq. CLASSY CREET: Headway Bit, weekened two out, 6th of 10, 17t behind Jejali Frotivell 2m 2l 110yde non 16th, 6dj. TCABERCH 2m nov hat, 66th.

12.45 CHESS COLEY RACING HOVICE CHASE IN 11 11094 14,881

209 1124-22 WEE WINDY (17) (NF) J Gifford 7-11-4 .

TOP PORSE TIP: Wee Windy 8

1965: Sason Towers 6 11 8 P Hiven 6-15 (Ars R Bevelop) 5 rae Matthew Evers Lord Of The West, 11-10 Wee Windy, 12-1 Filmsy Truth.

FORM CURBIE - LOND OF THE WHET: Led two out, casely, best Philip's Woody 20 (Leichster Ser has earring. White Pyr Every chance three out, ridden next, ran on, 2nd of 14, 20 behind Mister Drum (Hand 2m 4: 10yds nov ch, Gd-5th, PAUSEY YEATHY Led with three 3 out, reflect less, ran on, 2nd of 6, 11 behind Pongo Waring (Chellanh 4f 10yds say hop ch, Gd-Fm)

1.20 CHIES FEE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HAMBIOAF CHASE 20 ST CA.160 20167- LINDERP J. CURDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDROAP CHASE:
2017- 1- LINDERPS LOTTO (289) J. White 7-12-0
2012 24PLF/3- YEOMAN WARRIOR (409) (D) R Rotter 9-10-10
2013- 1- ERATSON (3) (68-40) (C) (D) R Buckler 7-10-9
204 22312- HALFAM TARN (229) H Mansers 6-10-0
205 223411 BUYVERS DREAM (16) B Elson 6-10-0
5 runners

1995: Strong Modeles & 11 & T J Murphy 5-1 (K C Stalley) 10 ran Bettings 5-2 Seasson, 3-1 Yeoman Warrior, 7-2 Linden s Lotto, 4-1 Buyers Dream, 9-2 Halham Tarn FORM GUIDE - MEATSON: Led approaching three out, driven out, beat Mr Mait 91 (Plumpton 2m & hop ch

1.55 WARLEGEOUGH THEE HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 11 23,460 10-10 SOUTH TILES PARTICLE 2m 14 23,469
10-112 CHAI-YO (14) (D) (EF) J Old 6-11-10
10-112 CHAI-YO (14) (D) (EF) 4 resembly TOP FORM TIP: Form

1995: Churyt's Lad 5 11 2 M A Fitzgerald 2-1 (N J Sen Bottling: 5-4 Chai-Yo, 5-2 Forestal, 4-1 Soverpigos Parade, 5-1 Kippenour

POSSE GUEDE - CHALFYC: Steady headway approaching two out, ran on well, 2nd of 10, 81 behind Misses Morose (freebury 2m 110yds http hide, Gd)
Morose (freebury 2m 110yds http hide, Gd)
FORESTAL: Led and poon clour, histocide has out, 3nd of 8, 10 behind Tem Bredie (Aintree 2m 110yds http
hide, Gd).
SOVENESSASS PARADITE (Headway three out, weakened approaching two out, 7th of 8, 261 behind Executive
Design (Account) 10yds http hide, Gd).
SOVENESSASS PARADITE: Led 6th until three out, fasted, 7th of 14, 301 behind Mine O Three (Woroseter 2m 4th http hide,
Gd)-Fort.

Channel 4 2.30 WRAGGE & CO CHALLENGE RANDICAP CHASE 3m 11 110yds C10,919 UAIT-14 VOORSSHEE CALE (5) (CD) (RF) J Gifford 10-11-1) M WEELENS 24-1223 GLENOT (20) N Bully 8-11-8 R Demokra 11333F RANKOW CASTLE (11) P Nichols 9-10-0 DOUBTFOR

1997: Yerkshire Gale 3 10 0 A P RoCoy 10-1 (J T GE(ent) 5 720 Bettings 10-11 Glemot, evens Yorkshire Gele

PORSE GUIDE - GLEBOT: Juriped was, every chance lest, weakened, 3rd of 8, 12 behind into The Res (Assiste Sn 3 top ch, Go).
YORKSRING GALE: Classed leaders until four out, 4th of 9, 26 behind below I had (Manhacha Jos 9)

Channel 4

 $3.05\,$ Chelterian sponsorship club howice hurdle 2_{20} 11 (2,810 | 102-12 MEACON PLIGHT (20) 8 Du Hann 5-11-7
16 DABAYDAN (16) M Figs 4-11-7
APOLICION R 1 Ge 4-11-3
2 CARLITO MISIGARCTH (20) (8F) P Window 4-11-3

1885: Zephymus 6 11 7 J Orberne 8-2 (O Sherwend) 15 rm Battley: 2-1 Stadtreyn, 7-2 Dansytim, 6-1 Caritle Brigants, 10-1 Season Flight, Bun Doctlends Coorler, Appliono, 16-1 Mr Datey

Color Inde, Gol-Fig. BillacColor Fuestiffo. Lad until approaching less, 2nd of 3, 71 behind Lada Forte (Aintree 2m 110yde nev bdle, cus; SHIFL OF SPENING: in jouch, no impression times out, 7% of 15, 25 behind lonio (Warwick 2m nor India, Gd.) DOCKLANDS COUNSIES: Lost place 8th, reliked bro out, ran on one page, 2ml of 8, 20° behind Prize (Plumpice 2m 11 nor lotte, Gd-Rt).

3.40 and case random horbit (scales) \sim 110/6 es,130

1885: Butter Times Ahead 9 10 12 B Harding 100-30 (& Richards) 12 mm

Betting: 7-2 Lockmagrain, 4-1 Erzadjot, 9-2 Seiannak, 6-1 Etturg, 8-1 Chympian, Rorss Girl, 10-1 Uluru, 14-1 Ewing Quertet PORTE COURSE - LOCASSAGGRADIC Headway three out, theken up to lead run-in, fair on wall, beat frep Descer & (Keleo Zer & 150yds hip hide, Gd). ERZADABAR Trapical jeaden, het bries out, soon cleer, best Carnetio & (Wednerby Zm 47 110yds hip) hide,

GC). BALAMANIA Headway bero cut, led run-in, bast Karahi 150 (Warwick 2m 31 hep hele, GC). BALAMANIA Headway Eth, led next, essily, best Artimosits of (Huntingston 3m 21 hep helis, Gc). CYVIETNAME Led close pomer, best Ocean trans, a mark least of an hop helis, Gc-Fm; BLINAWAY PRITE Leg until Ave out. 2nd of 5, a distance bahing Sell By The Sters (Newton Abbot 2m of hep

Richard Dunwoody reached his half century for the season when riding a double at Fakenham yesterday on Le Teteu and

 Blinkered for the first time today: CHELTENHAM 1.55 Sovereigns Parade. DONCASTER 12.35 Ballykissangel; 2.20

Results

Tricast C1.208.80.
1.20 (2m Helbe) 1, LE TETELL, R Dun-woody (6-4 tot); 2, Desert Bountains (8-4); 2, Reyal Aution (11-4), Enn. 2, 10, (Bob. Jones) Toto: C2.00; C1.9, Enn. 2, 10, Uppl F: 09.80. Tric: C3.80, CSF: 08.77. 1.65 (3m 110yds Cib) 1, DONT TELL THE WIFE, JA McCarthy (7-2): 2, Remainly Creek (3-1): 3, Pata Minstral (8-1), Event inv Speaker Weathertil. 7 ran. 1, 5-(C Eger-ton) Tote: £3.10; £1.40, £2.20. Duaj F: £6.00. CSF £14.49

2.30 (2m 110yds Chir 1, THE LANCER, R Dumerody (6-4 lay); 2, Dr Rocket (12-1); S, Winspit (5-4) 9 rsn. 25, 2 (D Gandotio) Tota C1 95 ft. 40, 52-40, 62.30, Dual F.C7.20. Tric: C12.90, GSF: £20.88, Tricast £74.55. 3.00 (2m Sf 110yds Cb): 1, JASHU, C Lisweilyn (85-40); 2, Scannalbech (2-1 Int-tov); 3, Priza Blatch (5-1), 2-1 Int-tav So-phile May, 6 ran. 3.5 (K Balley) Toty: 04.20; C1:60, 51:30. Dual F: 23:30 CSF: 17.05, NR: Milatress Rosie.

AMBITOS FORM:
3.30 (25m of Hello): 1, BARPORD SOVIES-BIGGS, A Dobbin (4-1): 2, Pedialtothormetal (15-2): 3, Wanders (5-1). 9-4 jn-tav Log-ingforarathbow, Pair CV Jacks, 9 ran. 9, 2, j. Fanshawe) Tore: 55.70; 51.40, 52.40, 51.80. Dalf F: 51.470. Trice 252.10. CSF: 524.01. Tricast 5156.17. NR: Strors Deligat.

1.00 (2an 110-44, thile); 1, HURSHCANE LAMEP, A Maguire (7-4 tev); 2, Masone (9-4); 3, Pfacedataly 6, 1-1); 12 ran. Nt. 3, (0 NiCholaon) Toice 12.70; 27.40, 21.30, 21.30, Dual F: 12.00, Trice 17.60, CSF: 68.12, Nft. Suprame Charm. 1.35 (2m 4f 110yds Ch): 1, POTTER'S BAY, A Maguire (2-f lav); 2, Tviple Whob-ing (3-1) 2 ran. 1. (D Nicholson) Total £1.20. NF: Rodeemyoursef.

QUADPOT: 19.30. PLACEPOT: 259.70.

The Hope employees (h): 1, STATELY HORE, A Maguire (b-4 int-lay): 2, Strong Michigan (b-4 int-lay): 3, Strong Michigan (b-4 int-lay): 3, Strong Michigan (b-4 int-lay): 3, Strong Star (7-1), 5 ran, 12, 1% (b Soven) Toto; 12,70; 17.40, \$1.80, Dual F: \$2.90, GSF: \$7.23. 2.40 (2m of Helis): 1, YAHEL, J Octorne (4-1): 2, Jack Tames (1-4 (av): 3, Extogy (25-1): 6 nm. Hd. 5, (J Old) Tore: 24.00; £1.30, £1.30, Dust F: £1.80, £8F: £5,27,

3.10 (3rm 5f 110)rds Chiz 1, INCHCALL-LOCK, C Maude (4-6 fav); 2, Charreh Law (5-2); 3, Process Drop (9-2); 4 ran. 13, 6, (J King) Tota: E1.70, Dua/ F: E1.60, CSF; C2.58. 3.40 (2as 110yds McBa): 1, FAR DAWN, C Maude (5-2): 2, Farmellian (5-5 tav): 3, Baressow (10-1). 11 ran. 12, ok. (Mrs. A Perretti Tots: C3.10; 51.60, C1.40, 53.00, Trio; 121.60, Dual F: C3.10, CSF: C5.62 QUADPOT: 22.80. PLACEPOT: 23.10. JACKPOT: 2251,20.

1.40 (2m 1f HdDe): 1, YET AGAIN, D
Bridgwater (11-4); 2, Lucks Forte (5-2 (av);
3, Ensy Listeniery (6-1); 14 ren. 15. 4, (Miss
Gay Kolloway) Tote: 53.00; C1.40, E1.70,
E2.80, Dual F: D5.00, Trio: E28.30, CSF; E9.52,
1.45 (2ms 8f 10 yet) Andels 1, MARTHY, D
Burchell (Evans tay); 2, Sisseptis (18-1);
3, Sarmean Prison (4-1), 9 ran. 7, 5, (D
Burchell) Tote: E2.10; 51.10, E3.10, C1.50,
Dual F: T18.10, Trio: £1.49, CSF; E17.70, NR:
Tibbs inn.
2.20 (2ms 8f Chis 1, FROSTEIRE ELECTER)

Dual F: £16. 10. Tric: £14.90. CSF: £17.00. NR: TIBBA Inn.
2.50 (Zhm 34 Chi: 1, FROSTTERN FLACHT, E Husband (16-1): 2. Everum Robber (16-1): 3, Creckbog Prospect (11-1). 7-2 (inf-tav Alter The Fox, Nordic Valley. 14 ran. £1. (Miss L. Siddall). Tote: £17.50. £4.60. £4.50. £5.20. Dual F: £169.70. Tric: £684.20. £5.20. Dual F: £169.70. Tric: £684.20. £5.20. Dual F: £169.70. Tric: £684.20. £5.20. £2.30. £2.70. £2.50

JADPOT: \$134.70. PLACEPOT: \$256.90.





ryneside

market











Townsend stays, Little tells Celtic

STON VILLA's manager Brian Little will firmly reject an at-tempt by Celtic to sign his captain Andy

Tommy Burns is anxious to sign Townsend and strengthen his midfield in an attempt to close the gap with the leaders Rangers in the Scottish Premier Division. But Little has no intention

of cashing in on Townsend, even though the 33-year-old player's contract expires next This is the second time in

two weeks Burns has tried to buy a Villa player. First he proposed a part-exchange deal involving his Dutch striker Pierre van Hooydonk and another of Little's mid-fielders, Mark Draper.

Little rejected that deal, as he will Burns's approach for Townsend. Villa's manager said last night: "I don't want any of my players to leave. We are fifth in the Premiership and hoping to have a good run in the FA Cup. There is absolutely no point in changing things around just for the sake of it."

£5 million for stadium

redevelopment and new

Tony May

erpool expect Villa to lodge a second offer for Stan Colly-Last month Villa's £4.5 million offer was rejected by Liv-erpool, who paid Nottingham Forest £8.5 million for the

striker 16 months ago. Leeds's manager George Graham yesterday sidestepped a row with Tony Ye-boah, saying that the un-happy striker was not in the team simply because he was not fit enough.
The £15,000-g-week Ghana-

lan had declared his discontent with life at Leeds and asked to be sold, claiming that two German clubs and Marseille were interested in

Yeboah, who has been out of the first team for eight months after knee surgery, has been an unused substitute in the past two games. Graham said: "I'm not treating Tony's remarks too seriously. It's all down to frustration because he has

been out for so long.
"Everyone at the club is de lighted Tony is nearly fit again. Of course we all want him back. But we don't want to take a chance with his fit-ness and risk another long just for the sake of it."

Instead, Little may soon attempt to add to his squad. Liv
spell on the sidelines. That is why I am quite surprised by his comments."



Putting his back into it. . . England's injury-troubled captain Michael Atherton strikes out at Vaghmaria, only to be caught by Whittall

Tour match: Matabeleland v England XI

Atherton suffers for his art

ness and he will no doubt suf-

fer more after this innings," said England's coach David Lloyd. "But he is 80 per cent

fit and improving. And, as far as our general preparations

are concerned, perfect: we are

exactly where we wanted to

Graham Thorpe's half-cen-

Birmingham City

going public ision club its supporters and Birmingham can be BIRMINGHAM City are the latest club to go public. Ambitious for proud of," said Sullivan. We have invested over £8 million in players and stadium redevelopments. promotion to the Premier League, they yesterday an-nounced plans to raise We now feel it is in an ideal position for investors and

shareholders and to work with us towards the future players by floating shares on the Alternative Investsuccess of the club." ment Market (AIM) in February.

Details of the deal have yet to be worked out but the value of the club is likely to be fixed at between £20 million and £25 million. City's revenue £3.8 million in 1993-94 to

£7 million for the 1994-95 Control of the club will seeking security through remain in the hands of Sport Newspapers, owned by David Sullivan and the brothers David and Rainh Gold. Sullivan holds 50 per cent of the club shares, the Gold brothers the other half. After flotation they will still own between three-quarters and four-

fifths of the stock. "In four years of ownership we have built Birmingnam City into a First Div-

Karren Brady, the man-aging director, said: "Bir-mingham City FC has a reg-ular following and its supporters are wide-rang-ing. Because of this we look forward to welcoming ap-plications from local, regional and national businesses and individual

supporters alike to become

supporters." Several clubs are now are days Southampton and Sunderland have announced plans to go public. Sunderland, whose share issue goes on the market on Christmas Eve, value the stock at £47.7 million. Southampton are the subject of a £10 million takeover from a property-development and leisure

passed since Michael Atherton, disturbed by the speculation about the seriousness of his back injury, pro-nounced it "not a cause for national concern". It can now be officially removed from the nation's list of obsessions, leaving the field clear for more pressing concerns such as the Christmas No. 1 and the future of the pound.

Atherton scored his first half-century of the Zimbabwe tour yesterday, at the sixth at-tempt, as all England's frontline batsmen satisfyingly

found form before Sunday's first one-day international. Then, as the third day's play against Matabeleland here was abandoned shortly after tea because of a thundertwo miles back to the team's | been suffering a lot of stiff- | pull by Olonga - had quickly | hotel through the deluge.

world's largest death tolls because of lightning, though it was a relief to discover that the storm had largely abated by the time he set off. Even in his improved state of health Atherton would struggle to adopt the "lightning posi-tion", which involves crouching on the floor and directing your bottom to the heavens; a week ago he could not even touch his knees.

Atherton batted in businesslike manner for 21/2 hours, ferreting the occasional ball down to third man with something approaching his old discrimination. His most ungainly moment brought about his dismissal as he tried to drag Vaghmaria's left-arm spin through midwicket and spooned a comfortable catch to mid-on. "Inevitably Michael has

tury was equally welcome. He had looked equally out of form since arriving in Zimba-bwe a week late because of the birth of his first child, Henry James. Now he became increasingly assertive and his two-hour 65 was the further turning of the screw by

an England side whose

confidence has blossomed

in this mellow town of spacious streets and restful England batted for about two sessions before declaring at 230 for five, after Gough's

wrapped up Matabeleland's first innings. Left 377 for vic-tory, the home team resume this morning on five without

could hardly have progressed more satisfactorily. The only batsman to fail was Knight, who was leg-before playing back to Olonga, and even he had the benefits of his firstinnings century behind him. Stewart bristled until he failed to hit Baghmaria over the top; Hussain played with dexterous command against the spinners until he was stumped off Andrew Whit-

tall's off-spin.
Zimbahwe's most pressing concern is the fitness of their chief strike bowler Heath Streak, who did not bowl yesterday but gave the impression that there was not much to be alarmed about by spending all day in the field.

David Houghton, Zimba bwe's captain, classified Streak's injury as "a niggling knee problem" but others spoke darkly of a possible recurrence of the groin problem that caused him to miss Zimbabwe's tour of Pakistan.

Streak admitted to neither He dragged himself stiffly across the pavilion verandah to explain to a quorum of journalists that he was feeling perfectly okay, and that, even though it had been suggested that he was short of condi-tioning he was satisfied that he had done enough bowling before the start of the Tes

Streak's groin, like Atherton's back, has become a national obsession. Here, though, it does not vie with such issues of magnitude as the Christmas No. 1 and the future of the pound so much as with the tobacco harvest and the price of biltong.

Scoreboard

Total (for 5 dec, 673 overs) Full of wickster 10, etc. 125, 196, Did set bets J P Crawley, R D E Gosph, A R Caddick, P C R Tulin Resident Disha.

Liverpool beat Newcastle

for rising Icelandic star

IVERPOOL are ready to continue with their policy of opening Antield's doors to the Continent's most promising young talent by signing rising star of Icelandic football, Bjarne Gudjonsson. The 17-year-old striker arrived in Liverpool for talks yesterday morning, much to the annoyance of Newcastle, who had the teenager on trial

Unfortunately for Newcastle, Gudjonsson is a lifelong Liverpool supporter and did not hesitate to walk out of St James' Park the moment he was informed of the Merseyside club's interest.

An established under-21 international, Gudjonsson plays for one of Iceland's leading clubs, Akranes, and is valued at about £1.2 million. But if



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200 resorts in Europe and North America. Ski Snapshot

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INTERACTIVE

Ski Codes for a list of

he joins Liverpool he can play no part in their Cup Winners' Cup campaign because he has already appeared in this sea-Liverpool have just con-

cluded negotiations with the Norwegian defender Bjorn Tore Kvarme, who is expected to complete a free transfer from Rosenborg early next Southampton celebrated

yesterday after winning a sixyear battle to build a £35 mil-lion all-seat stadium just outside the city at Stoneham. The Saints, who this week announced they were to be floated on the Stock Ex-change, will now begin fund-raising to finance the 25,000capacity arena, in which they

hope to play before 2000. Newcastle's winger Keith Gillespie, with groin trouble, has become the fifth player to pull out of Northern Ireland's squad for tomorrow's World Cup qualifier with Albania in Belfast. Bryan Hamilton had already called up the young Blackpool forward James Quinn as a precaution.

GM Vauxhall Conference champions will be given another three months to ensure their grounds meet the crite-ria for entry to the Football League. The deadline has been moved from New Year's Eve to April 1.

The League spokesman Chris Hull admitted that a judge's recommendation that League requirements be reviewed had influenced the change. The recommendation came in the unsuccessful High Court action brought against the League in the summer by last season's Conference champions, Stevenage

Aston Villa's goalkeeper Mark Bosnich will not be charged for his Nazi-style salute in October's match at Tottenham, Scotland Yard said last night. The Australian was fined £1,000 by the FA and severely censured for

Two-year limit agreed for overseas players

Mike Selvey

nlavers - habitués in first-class cricket for three decades — is to be maintained even though two years ago the counties agreed a moratorium that would have precluded the signing of foreigners beyond the 1998 season, pending discussions on their value to the English

game.
At the Test and County Cricket Board's winter meet ing yesterday it was decided to lift the moratorium provided no player was offered more than a two-year

The moratorium was

COOLUM CLASSIC (Coolum, Aus): Lead-hog first-reated source (Ans unless, Stated): 66 W Grady, 67 C Parry; D Brane-don; P Lonerd; P Chapman, 69 B Kingr, M Harwood: R Farley; S Bouvier; R Para-ping, 70 C Jones: D Book; J Cooper; M Clayton; P Zider; S Robinson; C Warren; G Eyras (GB); N Kerry; R Bell; R Sertinson. 71 d Cood; T Block; A Painley; E Bout (RZ); G Chalmen; J Woodland; L Westle; M Roberts

NEWS EUROLEAGUE Paniontos 79, Steteriel Milan 88, Millar 88, Tommo 113 (3rd ett; Charlotte 101, Demer 97; New Jersey 110, Seatie 101; Washington 108, Cleveland 85; Philadelphis 78, Milani 84; Chicago 103, Michaeda 85; Los Angeles Lakers 79, In-diana 78.

LAS PALIMAS TOLERHAMMENT: Third retund: Y Topsior (Bul) X, A Karpov (Rus) X V Anand (Ind) 1, V branchus (LAv) 0; G Kasparov (Rus) X, V Krannas (Rus) X. Leaders: Kasparov, Arand 18. COMMONTWEALTH CHAMEPIONSHIP (Galcatta): Bound Surepa, hondown P hittprakenth (Ind) 0; V Koutry, J Srivan, P Thipay (Ind), Z Rahmen (Bangladesh), C McNab (Scot) 3; A Koslav (Eng) 4%. Albert J Plashatt (Eng) 3%.

THERD TEST: Kampers India 237 and 400-7 dec. South Africa 177 and 180 (H Cronja 50, L Klušeney Sano, A Hudson 51; Srugah 3-38, Josah 3-88, Prasad 2-25) india won by 280 runs and win the sartes 2-1.

MML Hertord 5, Florida 2, Montreal 2, Buffalo 3 (cd.) New York Rangers 3, New York Islanders 5; Dallan 5, St Louis 5 (cd; Vancouver 1, Colorado 8; Anelseim 3, Pillis-burgh 7; Sen Jose 3, Washington 2.

ice Hockey

Alpine Skiing

Results

COOLUM CLASSIC (Coo

Basketball

Golf

agreed originally because it mum of two years so that any was felt that cricket in Eng-land might be ill-served by seas players can be made the long-term signing of international players who were required by their countries in

The 1999 season was chosen for the original ban largely because it coincided with the next World Cup in England during which the top players would be preoccupied any-way, it would have provided a convenient breathing space between those who would see a total ban on imports and those who wished for the status quo. An extension into 2000 had also been mooted.

Now, however, it is felt that allow signings for a maxi- runner-up.

Snooker

Fixtures

Soccer

GERMAN OPER (Carabruck): Gelicher Single A Robbloom (Can) ist D Harold (Engl

islos: Presion v Blackpool (7.45). UNIBOND LEAGUE: First Dis

Rugby Union

Basketball

WORLD CUP (Val d'Isere): Wessen's | Dispussion annexes | Super-Cu 1, M Garp (Ger) India / Bisec: 2, | 7UP TROPHY: Chester v Shelfeld (E.U).

Greet Harwood Tri v Radcille Sor.
FAI MATIONAL LEAGUIS Presider Di

U-21 INTERNATIONAL: Sentand v ha

ASSOLO-WELSES GUIP Pool 126 Lianelli Sale (7.15).
CLUS BAYCONER Buildord & Locatein Barry Holl & Lydney (7.0); Cillian & Bristol Normampion & Loughborough Stella: Jed Porest & Gales, Robo & Melnour, Peeding Hawket, Glasgow Southeyn & Hillmedd Jordan Hill; Hawa of Filia & Kirkenidy, Salfrik Almwick.

seas players can be made within a reasonable time-frame without contractual

It was also agreed by the TCCB that any county resting players at the specific request of the chairman of the England selectors shall receive compensation at the rate of £500 per match day. Instances are rare but last season Graeme Hick, Mike Atherton, Dominic Cork and Darren Gough missed matches at the behest of Ray-

mond Illingworth.

Somerset's Philip Prost has been chosen as the TCCB's Groundsman of the Year, the most sensible action is to with Derbyshire's Steve Birks

Tour match: Queensland v England A

Gatting proves selective

Andy Wilson in Brisbane

IKE GATTING made it clear here yesterday that if he were to be an England selector he would not want to be so "half-cock". Responding to speculation linking him with the job on the assumption that Graham Gooch becomes chairman, Gatting said: "I don't know if it would be possible to do the job properly while still

playing.
"You would have to ask Graham how much it affected his cricket. It didn't look like it affected him too much last year but you have to be care-ful not to end up with too much on your plate."

two more seasons as a player | cashire team-mate Glen Chapthe second possibly as Middlesex player-coach — also urged the Test and County Cricket Board to allow Owais Shah a full season with the county rather than interrupting it by making him play for England Under-19.
The youth internationals

have always taken prece-dence in the past but the 18-year-old is the first player to have made an A tour while still eligible for the under-19s. Only 85 meaningless minutes were possible at The Gabba because of a storm at

the start of the day and bad light at the end. Jason Gallian bowled for the first time on his injury-hit tour and sent down 10 tidy Gatting, who is planning overs for 17 runs, and his Lan-

ple took the one wicket to fall. having Jerry Cassell caught behind trying to avoid a short ball. As Chapple continued to dig the ball in at the left-hander Matthew Mott, the visitors' captain Adam Hollicake revived a leg-theory field 60-odd years on.

Buchario As First Innings 230 (M / Buther 72: Craevey 6-70)
QUISSESSAMD
Part Innings (overnight 154-4)
M P Mott not out 21
J L Cassell c Hogg & Chapple 2
1W A Sectombs not out 7
Extres (64, nb10) 1

Ellis mixes it without Guilt

Rowing

Wigan Warriors are hoping Christopher Dodd to lure back their missing crowds by offering season

CAMBRIDGE named their trial crews Guilt and Innocence but the two coxes showed anything but naiveté yesterday in a fine tussle from Putney to Mort-

lake won in a very fast 16min 41sec. The verdict went to Guilt. steered by the British Olympic women's eight cox Suzie Ellis, by a length and two-thirds. On the Middle-sex station she got the better of this year's Blue boat cox Kevin Whyman, constantly trying to bore him off the tide and unsettling his crew more than her own by "knitting" blades for most of the way to Duke's Meadows. Guilt's No. 7 Christian Brun frequently touched blades

with innocence's No. 3 Paul Cunningham. In a tide stronger than for Oxford on Monday, Guilt's was a clean crew with a stern four including the freshman Alex Story from Britain's Atlanta eight and three of 1996's outstanding

Goldie crew. The other crew, stroked by the Canadian Olympian Brad Crombie and containing the president Ethan Ayer, the only Blue, is probably faster in flat

K. Souringer (Ger) 1.08.20: 3, t Kontner (R) 1.08.20: 4, R Goestchi (Aug 1.06.44: 5, M Eri (Ger) 1.08.57: 6, F Missradis (Fr) 1.08.98; 7, C MontBlet (Fr) 1.08.79; 8, W Zelenskaya (Risa) 1.08.48; 8, P Wiberg (Swe) 7 09 37: 10, L Dalloz (Fr) 1.09.21; 11, S Schusskar (Aug) 1.09.30; 12, H Zurbriggen (Switz) 1.09.39; 13, R Cavegnoust (Fr) 1.09.39; 14, R Hauset (Ger) 1.09.42; 15, S Merrin (R) 1.09.44; 16, B Parez (R) 1.09.59; 17, M Gereg (US) 1.09.62; 19, A Washiner (Aut) 1.09.59; 19, M Briggen-Burnstormolium (Port) 1.09.39; 20, B Gladdahiva (Francis 10.077, M Gerid Cap. Sweenall School (Brigger) 1.09.39; 20, Gladdahiva (Francis 10.077, M Gerid Cap. Sweenall School (Brigger) 1.09.77; 20 (Georgia) 1.09.78; 3, MontBlet 182; 9, Zurbriggen 175; 10, Mannada 172; 11, Erf 164; 12, Gladdahiva 148; 13, A Melastrictur (Aug) 124; 14, D Compagnord (n) 120; 15, Schusar 113; 15–1, U Hrowst (Slovent), B Merlin 100; 18–, S Parezanini (t), C Riegger (RC) 100, Neutless Cap. Standalayan 1, Austria 100, 18–; S Parezanini (t), C Riegger (RC) 100, Neutless Cap. Standalayan 1, Austria 100, 100; R. Bley S76; 6, France 976.

SECONNET Rugby League

Leeds sign Mathiou

Paul Fitzpatrick

AMIE MATHIOU ne-came Leeds Rhinos' fourth major signing of the week, and their sixth since Gary Hetherington be-AMIE MATHIOU became chief executive in Octo-North Queensland Cowboys. The 6ft lin, 15%-stone prop represented Australian Schoolboys and was formerly

Farrell

with North Sydney Bears. He will be available for Leeds's match against Halifax Blue Sox on Boxing Day.

firmed that Johnny Lawless, Jean-Marc Garcia, Paul Carr and Danny McAllister would be staying.

Sheffield Eagles about 2200,000 for Dean Lawford, Ryan Sheridan and Anthony

The Eagles have also been buying and are expected to announce a third signing from Australia tomorrow. following those of Steve Edmed and Rod Doyle. There has been speculation about the future of other Sheffield players but the club con-firmed that Johnny Lawless,

trip down under in June when the club play in the World Club Championship. As well as being allowed to pay for their tickets in instalments, they will have their names entered in a draw with the trip to Australia as the prize. Wigan's average attendance fell below those of Bradford and St Helens last season, the first time for a decade that they did not decay the remove they did not draw the game's biggest average crowds

ticket buyers the chance of a

American Football

Monarchs relocate to Stamford Bridge

CHELSEA FC are to host World League matches a two-year deal with the London Monarchs, who have played at White Hart Lane. Tottenham's ground, for the past two sessons.

The Monarchs staged the final game of their 1996 World League campaign at Stamford Bridge and attracted more than 11,000 fans to see them defeat Rhein Fire 17-14. Lon-

The World League president Oliver Luck said about the switch of venues; "We are Chelsea's managing directions of the continue thrilled with this move. Chelsea are an ambitious club with a tremendous future. We believe the move to Stamford
Bridge will provide a great
opportunity to showcase the
don Monarchs in 1997 and

opportunity in showcase the thrilling speciacle of Ameri-can football.

"Stamford Bridge is very accessible and the fans liked defeat Rhein Fire 17-14. London's 1997 season starts on April 13 against the Frankfurt archs' attendances rose by 25per cent and I am looking for the playing surface."

Chelsea."
Chelsea's managing director Colin Hutchinson said: The one-game experiment last season was most success-

don Monarchs in 1997 and "American football fits in well with the development and profile of Stamford

Bridge and five fixtures at the end of the soccer season minimises the risk of damage to

THE COMEBACK TRAIL

Christie, Mansell, Leonard, Andries . . . Guardian writers on the men who simply cannot turn their backs on the sports that have been their life

Champions who refuse to say goodbye

Christie set to run in France

Duncan Mackay in Monte Carlo

INFORD CHRISTIE is planning to make an in-ternational comeback only two months short of his 37th birthday, on the track where he set his only world

the Lievin meeting in north-ern France, confirmed yesterday that he had talked to Brit-

It is only four months since Christie formally announced that he would never race defeat over 100m in Sheffield in August. He is currently training in Australia with the young Scot who beat him that

Lievin organisers about yet again can only fuel specu-Christie's participation in a meeting he has always en-joyed. In 1995 he broke the Cup in Munich next June.

world indoor record for 200m on the famously fast track, running 20.25sec — a time finally beaten this year when his training partner Frankie Fredericks became the first man to cover the distance in-doors in under 20sec.

It would be no real surprise if Christie, for whom athletics courses through the bloodstream, were to return to the track. He had threatened retirement at least three day that he had talked to Brit-ain's former world and Olympic 100 metres champion about running 60m and 200m at his meeting in February. It is only four months size. were surprised when he dust-ed off his spikes for another

ed off his spikes for another season last May.

Despite being disqualified for two false starts in the Olympic 100m final in Atlanta, and that defeat against Mackie, Christie took his bow still widely acknowledged as young Scot who beat him that day, Ian Mackie, and it may be that his hard work is more than just keeping in trim.

HIs spokeswoman said last night that there had been injust that there had been discussions" with the may return that the may return



Christie . . . February date

If Christie, one of the best paid athletes on the summer circuit — commanding up to \$50,000 (£30,000) a meet decides to race on, he could benefit from a new system of prize-money at next summer's Grand Prix and world championships, where more than \$20 million will be up for grabs, according to a senior International Amateur

Athletic Federation source.
The IAAF has been without a title sponsor for its Grand Prix circuit for the past year and seems unlikely to sign a deal for 1997. But through special licensing agreement for 1998 the world body projects that it will earn \$1 million from each of the 17

Mansell missing the Moët buzz

Frank Keating in Barcelona

But is it reasonable to tut-tut and fear for a self-obsessed nut's future in a dangerous, young man's game when a far more famed sporting legend is preparing a comeback in the

booked for a return in Febru-ary. It is more than 20 years since his glistening talent was first displayed at the Olympic Games; it is 18 since the whole of Fleet Street travelled to Maryland with the "Fen Tiger", the welterweight
Dave "Boy" Green, and saw
him Sugar-rayed with the
most clinically evil single
uppercut I have ever felt from
a dozen rows back.

Leonard said that night he would have a couple more fights before retiring. Three years later, in 1981, we were venom his superstar status.
gaping in awe as he prevailed
This is not the sort of thing at the end of a savage 13- another boxer, Dennis An- "I was surprised how wife Roseanne. "I don't

EAD all about it: Nigel glasses hiding cuts around his eyes, he pledged to retire on the age of 43. Is this wise, old boy, one asked him by Hearns. Afterwards, his hands four was on his knee. The boy is now old enough to be at uni-versity but his dad fights on.

It is not, nor is it with Mansell, anything to do with money. Both men are worth many fortunes. With both it must be that psychotic inabil-ity to purge themselves of the roar of the liniment, the smell of the crowd; the lust for simple, but priceless, all-time

in Mansell's case it might be understandable that his sport is not out of his system. He is older than Leonard but the boxer had been 10 years a global name when Mansell was still a hack-marker journeyman and a bit of a joke with the Martini people of his circuit for his Brummie accent.

Mansell, it must be remem-

Mansell, it must be remem-bered, won his first grand prix in 1985 — at an astonishing 72nd attempt. He obviously still craves to rub in with

dries, will be looking for tomorrow night. We are told he is "somewhere between 43 and 48" and he is seeking to regain a British title 17 years after he first fought for one. He needs the money, and the man from the Inland Revenue will be metaphorically in his

Good luck to him; his is a very different kettle of clob-ber and commitment than that of Mansell, who plays that of Mansell, who pays golf with his tax inspectors and his gleeful accountants. And on his own golf course in Devon, built with his own

£10 million crispies. But to play golf on your own course and then toast yourself with half of bitter at the 19th is not quite the same thing; bet-ter to mess about with the Moët on the podium and hear the acclaim of the world.

competitive next year," says summers ago, where Ayrton Mansell. "Tve always gone quick." Golf? Phooey.

Senna had publicly derided Mansell as "a contemptible

months away from his magic roundabout of fame and autograph-signing. Just playing golf. In that time he has reduced his handicap from - and his accountants - watched him doing it. Not quite the same as being sere-naded at Silverstone.

At the present rate he will be down to scratch by Febru-ary. What else for a life? Eu-reka! Of course! The first 1997 grand prix starts in Mel-bourne on March 9. Fangio won his last world championship at 46, didn't he? Why can't Mansell? That would

show them.

He was pumped up yesterday. The previous day he had jumped, cold, into the car yet had shown the young Ger-man, latest of the Schu-Or is it an old man's delirium? "It's 60-40 I'll be driving something really fast and the very track, only five



Mansell \dots lust for fame

shit" before the Englishman had gone out and beaten the Brazilian in a dramatic, nerve-testing bead-to-head! Senna has gone so the superstar. And Leonard doubtless feels precisely the same as Mansell.

There will be no pressure from us' says Jordan

owner Eddie Jordan said: "I | cuit de Catalunya near Bar-

David Plummer

on the pay dispute

play by Christmas

pay dispute, unless the Welsh

set to stop

AFTER Nigel Mansell lean and fit he looked but think the taste for racing the decision has to come dan-Peugeot yesterday looking increasingly likely in pressure from Jordan."

After his trial at the Circumstance next season, the team of the decision has to come ever went away," he said. "It's the closest thing to the edge of life you can get."

Yesterday he completed to the decision has to come ever went away," he said. "It's the closest thing to the edge of life you can get." 16 circuits in the wet, his best time of 1min 45.79sec

Rugby Union

Fast and loose Sheasby seizes the day Welsh refs to down whistles Robert Armstrong | work. It wasn't that I didn't

meets the Wasp making England's back row buzz

WEEKEND of mammoth celebrations followed Chris Sheasby's second international against the New Zealand Barbarians, on the same day as his 30th birthscended on the Sporting Page will rejig the back row as in west London and carried on revelling at the Gargoyle into the small hours before the England No. 8 finally broke away with a dozen or so friends to enjoy a Sunday roast with his parents at

elective

camp !! 1917

Address of the second

It was fitting that Sheasby, a man who has made curpe diem his way of rugby life, should promptly set aside a 34-19 defeat to focus on 24 hours of fun and laughter. The power of positive thinking not only kept him going forward during the long years of international neglect but enabled the former Harlequin to seize the day and blow away England's back-row cobwebs the moment he got his

'My time has come. I have the armoury to be a positive influence for England'

chance in last month's win against Italy. Sheasby prepares for big has no intention of giving up his day job at Pangbourne College in Berkshire where he also coaches the boys into rector of rugby Dick Best. playing their best rugby. The Wasps forward appreciates the solid football education he received at Radley and Cambridge, where movement and continuity, ball in hand, be-came the hallmarks of a per-sonal style that fits snugly into the game Jack Rowell wants England to develop.

"I think my time has come," he acknowledged. "I have the armoury to be a positive influence in the England side and to create scoring chances for those around me. It's a question of having sufficient power to be dynamic off the back of the scrum, to pick up and get over the gain line, make room for other people and deliver a pass at the right moment.

England need speed to create links between backs and forwards and maintain good continuity. We need to generate five or six phases of ball instead of winning just two or three. Lawrence Dallaglio. Tim Rodber and myself make the kind of combination that can create links and recycle the ball effectively. continuity. We need to generate five or six phases of ball instead of winning just two or three. Lawrence Dallaglic. the ball effectively.

southern hemisphere style for years. To begin with I concentrated on passing, handling and creating chances and perhaps not enough on the tight of the could flow from that."

Carpe diem indeed.

want to do it, I just wasn't working hard enough around the fringes in the northern hemisphere style. As the laws have changed I have tight-ened up my game and aimed for a complete 80-minute

ing with the fast rucking and continuous movement of the New Zealanders, whose coach John Hart commended the open-side qualities of the En-glishman's game. It remains

knew I could compete against their style," said Sheasby. "It was wonderful to score in my first international against Italy but New Zealand was a tional season playing right at

"That challenge made me feel very snappy and I made one or two things happen in the first five minutes. I felt comfortable with the game

"I haven't found it difficult to settle into the side. I have the respect of the other players partly due to my experience. I enjoy the camaraderie

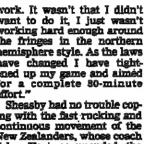
A committed sportabolic since his schooldays, Sheasby has always been conscious that his speed, strength and that his speed, attended the attended are rare gifts he must not squander. He is a bit unusual among England forwards in that he appears to Sheasby prepares to games with meticulous care but, professional though he but, professional though he is, the mathematics teacher is, the mathematics of giving up after a row with the club's di-

"It has been very important to me to win the World Cup

into the 15-man game.
"Since I was eight years old
I've wanted to play for Eng-land. As a teenager I stood in sity Match looking up at Billy Beaumont, Roger Utiley and Mike Slemen and wondering as they did.

targets. First you must gain your first cap and make sure it's not your only one. Then, once you've played against the best, you get a taste for

te ball effectively. The British Lions tour for "I've been playing the 3 South Africal Still, you can



Will legig the back low as Hart suggested, perhaps switching Dallaglio to his preferred position at hlind-side and Rodber to No. 8. "I was pumped up for the New Zealand game because I

very different test. I was ask-ing myself, 'Am I good enough to survive an internathe top?"

though I was disappointed we let it slip away in the last 10 minutes after really taking it to them and playing some great rugby. Still, it was a positive experience.

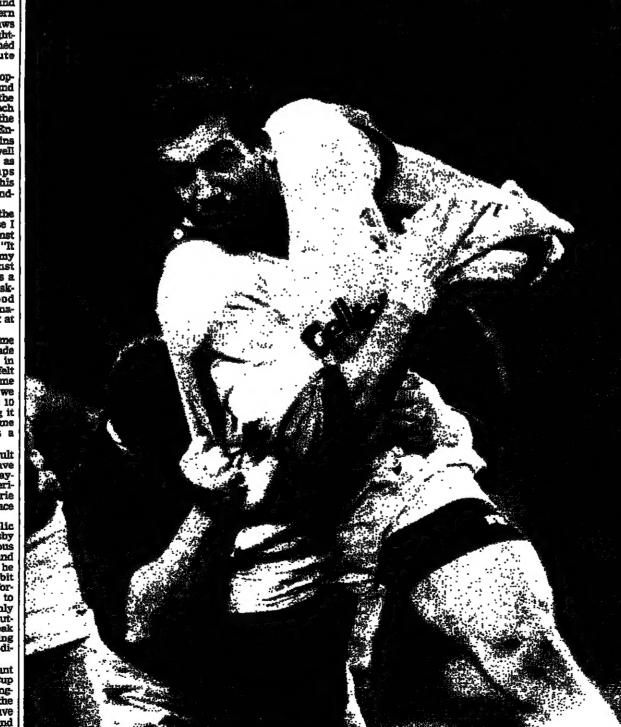
and I want to justify my place on the field."

with Harlequins last spring

Sevens [in 1993] with England," he said. "That is the only trophy England have won on a world stage and they beat the best, New Zea-land, South Africa and Australia. In the modern era you can become a far more positive influence by taking sevens skills

the West car park at the Varwhether I'd ever play as well

"You have to set yourself



Sevens cavalry charge . . . Chris Sheasby, whose running and handling skills fit Jack Rowell's game plan

Stransky signing a Leicester coup

OEL STRANSKY, the South African international to play for Leicester, who scored all 15 of the victorions Springboks' points in last year's World Cop final, is joining Leices.

He is expected to obtain a work permit within a supplementation of the fact that they're a rugby club, and, speaking as a recent father, the environment and family atmosphere at Welford Road was very persuasive."

The donors stress that it is not speaking the former England prop Gary Pearce and yesterday they confirmed an annual subsidy of £100,000 from a sphere at Welford Road was very persuasive."

The donors stress that it is not speaking they confirmed an annual subsidy of £100,000 from a sphere at Welford Road was very persuasive."

Armstrong. The 29-year-old former Natal and Western Province player has agreed a 21/2-year contract which could be worth up to 2350,000 with bonuses included.

He has played in 23 Tests. scoring 240 points, and will on January 4. "I was imp opment of the flexible run-ning style fostered by Wel-ford Road's Australian director of rugby Bob

ter. writes Robert work permit within a month and make his Courage league debut on January 11, but he would not be eligible for the European Cup final on January 25

"This is another step towards our building the strongest club team in Europe," said Dwyer. "Joel will bring his own unparalleled playing strengths to should the Tigers reach that stage by winning their semi-final against Toulouse on January 4.

"I was impressed by every aspect of the club on and off the field." he said.
"They're a strong side, getting stronger, and they're away from the foot of the

ning style fostered by welford Road's Australian
director of rugby Bob
Dwyer.
Stransky will be the first

is not sponsorship but money that must be used to raise the club's playing strength. Nottingham will now appoint a director of rugby and they hope to announce the signing of two overseas internationals by this weekend.

The Canada captain Al Charron, who has signed for Moseley on a two-year contract, will make his debut for the League Two

fered £150 for First Division matches, £75 for Second and nothing for the rest. It offered to backdate the package to De-

Rugby Union steps in to prevent a downing of whistles which would paralyse the game in the principality. Feelings are running so high over the WRU's refusal to sanction match fees beyond the top two divisions and to backdate the claim to August 31 that when the Welsh Referees' Society met to consider a strike call, only one district out of nine voted to accept the

union's package.

The strike is scheduled to start a week tomorrow and would wreck the First Division programme and the fifth round of the Swalec Cup as well as district, schools and youth rugby. The society's chairman, Les Peard, himself a former international referthreat. Unless the WRU meets our demands we are going on an indefinite strike, and the mood of the referees is one of

fees for the touch judges, down gesture. I do not think to £25 for controlling a Fifth problem is the money Division game. The union of volved but the principle."

cember 1 but told the referees they would all have to sign contracts with the WRU.

"We have told them there is no way anyone will be sign-ing contracts," said Peard. EFEREES in Wales will next week be-"Half our members are not of sporting officials in their jobs, but we regard it as Britain to go on strike in a a sinister move. "It would only cost them

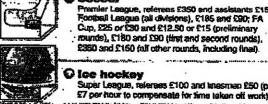
> £28,000 to backdate the claim to August 31 and they are spending money here, there and everywhere on other things. Referees in England get £200 for taking charge of a First Division match. We are not being unreasonable; the with all the pressure on referees, it is time our contribution was recognised. The ball is in the WRU's court because we will not be watering down our demands." He said that any referee

> who wanted to take charge of a match next week was free to do so. "We are an amateur organisation. We are not stop-ping anyone from refereeing." The referees threatened to strike earlier this year in a row over expenses but the WRU caved in at the last moment. There is no sign of a

min indefinite strike, and the mood of the referees is one of inger. We feel let down."

The referees sought a sliding the referees sought a sliding dent," said Ken Rowlands, the scale of payments from Divisions One to Five: £125 for taking charge of a match in the top flight, with reduced real one and not an empty WRU's director of referees. "I am caught in the middle. We know the strike threat is a gesture. I do not think the

The official rate Rugby Union (England) Internationals, referees £1,500 and linesmen £750; First Division, £200 and £100; Second Division, £150 and £75: Third Division, £100 and £50; Fourth Division, £75 and £35. All professional leagues, referees £160, linesmen £65, in-goal judges £40 and reserve referees £70.



£350 and £150 fall other rounds, including final). Super League, referees £100 and knesmen £50 (plus £7 per hour to compensate for time taken off work)

Butweiser League, reletiess £45; First Division, £24.60; Second Division £20.50; local leagues £6.50.



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SportsGuardian

RUGBY UNION

Injuries have forced Jack Rowell's hand. Robert Armstrong on significant changes for tomorrow's match against Argentina

Leonard captains England

NGLAND's escalat-ing injury toll has forced a major reshuffle, including a temporary change of captain, for tomorrow's in-ternational against Argentina at Twickenham.

Jason Leonard leads the

side in place of Phil de Glanville, who has withdrawn with a thigh injury but should have ample time to recover before the Calcutta Cup match against Scotland at Twickenham on February I. Jeremy Guscott resumes his partnership with Will Carling at centre and Tony Underwood makes his international comeback on the left

Doubts persist about the fit-ness of Mike Catt, who has a chest injury, and Alex King might win his first cap should the England fly-half with-draw. Northampton's Paul Grayson, who won five caps last season, has also been placed on stand-by, bringing the number of players at-tached to the England squad to 24 since the start of the

Leonard is the first prop t lead England since Fran Cotton, and may well be the first carpenter to do so. The 28-year-old Harlequin forward has 50 caps and last month was named vice-captain by the coach Jack Rowell.

"Everyone dreams about becoming England captain one day," said Leonard. "It's a wonderful honour. My approach to the job will be calm and collected. We have experienced players who won't need anything more than a quiet word in their ear from

Rowell noted that Leonard had been closely involved in the discussion of playing issues along with de Glanville since the Bath player's ap-



Warm work on a cold day . . . Paul Grayson leads the chase as the England squad train at Twickenham yesterday

"I have never found Jason's opinions anything other than valuable," said Rowell. "He has made a lot of progress im-proving his fitness, he is captain of Harlequins, a hig club, and as England vice-captain

Predictably the coach sidestepped the question of whether he would retain the old firm of Carling and Guscott in the new year if they sufficiently impressed in their 44th international

20 In a manner of speaking,

abandonment (11)

25 A pitted bowl? (8)

from surplice (8)

Down

danced reel in a state of

24 By what means held back a

26 Superior courage of Pearl in the 5 (6)

27 Tyrants' employers take cui

2 Elevating play on words

3 Do you see the hit of Asia

Minor that comes to a

6 Gold trail absordoned in South American country (9) 7 Licenses no tooking-class

on Sundays, we hear (4)

8 One of "The Bostonians"?

Pull the other onel (4)

Spectacle of one of the 5 to

turn lime tree rotten (3,2,7)

point? (5)

high seat in India? (6)

"Will has done immeasurably well as a player after eight years as captain and Jerry now has a chance to off his wares," he said. Underwood, who has scored 10 tries in 20 internationals,

World Cup performance against New Zealand 18 months ago. Indeed, England's back division arguably will be strengthened by the out-and-out pace of Underwood and Sleighthoime on the wings and the restoration of England A's 22-17 victory the nation's most successful

midfield partnership. Leonard predicted that the Argentina game would be a hard, physical confrontation. Their forwards may not posess the technical expertise of New Zealand but they definitely do have brute strength and raw aggression. I don't think any player wearing an Argentina shirt will want to be on the end of a 50-point defeat again (as in 1991).

Argentina's captain Lisandro Arbixu agreed. "There have been big changes in Argentine rugby and we are developing a new style which we hope to show on Saturday," he said.

Arbizu pointed out that Argentina scored seven tries in two Tests against France and three tries in two Tests

the Test arena and finally put | as beating Canada for the first behind him his embarrassing | time with a record haul of five tries. • The Harlequin scrum-half Nick Walshe joins the Eng-

May played with a straight against Argentina on Wednes day and will be laid up until February at the earliest.



Leonard ... battle-promotion

PBH, master of straightbatted GBH



Vincent Hanna

EW are the sportsmen who can be recalled simply by their initials or nicknames, Like All. or The Don, or WG. Peter May. known, died three years ago and a new book about him omes out next week.* May was the model for

every schoolboy-comic hero of his time. Tall, well-bred, white and English, with carefully ironed hair and a glorious on drive, he was just the sort of chap one hoped one's daughter would bring home. There's a picture of a May on drive in the book that alone is almost

worth the price. I saw him play his last Test match, at The Oval in 1961, when he made 71 against Australia. In all he scored 27,592 first-class runs in 618 innings, an average of 51, and he retired at 32. He was a Char-terhouse and Cambridge amateur of the old school, who knew which gate at Lord's to walk through and was, on everyone's say-so, a shy, modest

Mike Selvey recalls that when Neil Fairbrother got a duck in his first Test in 1987 hacks that PBH had done the greeted by the chairman, who shuffled apologetically and said: I thought I played rather well in my first Test. I got

bat. 'Make sure the bowlers can see the maker's name." he said. He was very strong off the back foot and he rarely hooked. "It was a waste of time bowling bumpers at Peter. aid Ray Lindwall. "He just ignored them." It makes one wonder how May, with that high backlift, would have fared against the later West Indies attacks. I expect he From 1982 to 1989 he was chairman of the selectors, in which capacity he was widely criticised. He certainly got through a lot of captains-

Keith Fletcher, Mike Gatting, Bob Willis, John Emburey, Chris Cowdrey — and in 1986 he removed David Gower in what is still regarded as a shabby fashion. Hill's book quotes Colin Cowdrey explaining that PBH was upset by

Gower's casual approach: "In his playing days Peter would always prepare notes on the obs he had to do." If only David had remembered to

carry a jotter with him. Not that the book contains many such insights. Of its parse 178 pages only one and a half cover PBH's eight years as chairman of selectors. Hill plays down May's attitude to South Africa under apartheid, which led to strained relations with David Sheppard and Raman Subba Row (then

chairman of the TCCB). A mercifully short collec ion of cliches is used in the defence of the indefensible. We hear PBH arguing that iso ating South Africa would be "harming the very people who we profess to help", adding: "I have not enjoyed seeing good men and good friends treated with contempt by critics often voefully ignorant of the

Sheppard vainly sought to repair their friendship. "Peter could be very unvielding in certain circumstances," he said. All the sadder when the circumstances were about tanding up to wickedness. But at least, in what is an anodyne piece of hagiography. Hill brings back one of my best schoolboy memories, the 1957 Test against West Indies

at Edebaston. Their leg-spinner Sonny Ranadhin mesmerised England in the first innings, taking seven for 49. "We decided to have a dart at him," recalls Cowdrey, "as a result of which we were all out for 186 by twenty minutes to four

HEN England batted again, West Indies had built a first-innings lead of 288 runs. It was just before noon on the Monday that May and Cowdrey came together. England were then 113 for three and the team had

checked out of their hotel. May's technique against Ramadhin was simple but **effective:** thrust the left leg down the wicket and play every ball as an off-break. Under modern laws the match would have finished quickly, but West Indian throats became hoarse from appealing as ball bit pad all day. May and Cowdrey put on 411, still the highest-ever England partner-ship, PBH was 285 not out.

"I've just seen history made." I scribbled in my school jotter, having watched all this on television. "I wish it had been Denis Compton." De his was my real bero, but he was just as unreliable about South Africa.

* Peter May, by Alan Hill. Andre Deutsch. £15,99

Guardian Crossword No 20,835

who, it's heard, avoids the Across demonstrative singer (3,8) 1 Charity of the 5 born in a

benefit office (8) 5 Note the Italian in my class (6)

9 Evergreen, you are heard in

the finale (8) 10 Floating behind a way to gain profit, it is said (6) 12 Commoner name of politician 15 Sign on 7 substitutes (5)

18 Amounting to a Frenchman returning the call without

ter for a way to cover a seat

17 Democrat deserted suppor-

Sleight of h-hand developed elevated terrain in the 3 (3,9) 13 The reduced rank of one we look up to (5,2,3) 14 Makers' monikers stig tise muddled Mensa (5,5)

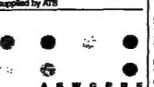
Set by Plodge 19 Last man to follow girl running Into the Solway Firth (5)

OFFER CONFLAT FU O A D FUNISH QUIMKA C A G O L

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,834 Castle affecting the order of perpetual motion (4,6) 16 Haggard heroine left Plymouth bowier with a duck (9) 21 It's apparent Rover did bits about doings in central colony for the gearless (6,4) the Frenchman (5)

23 ... but draws up to be teacher's pet! (4) Solution tomorrow

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FA seeks National Lottery hand-out to fund World Cup bid THE Football Association is | required over the next 3% | which the Prime Minister | from Lottery funds," said

to seek National Lottery funding to help its campaign to bring the 2006 World Cup to

It has been estimated that staging the tournament minister lain Sproat and government that we were double the total for Euro 96. At least £10 million would be

years simply to mount a bid.
Alec McGiven, director of
the FA's World Cup Cam-paign, led a Lancaster Gate Hoddle. delegation that met the sports

met England's coach Glenn

"Any bid for the World Cup could cost us £7-10 million by the time the decision is made

The mood of the meeting was very positive. The government's attitude was that they are here to help and around any problems."

ALS & STORAGE TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTABLE CAR BREAKDOWN HELOVER
ERS CAR BODY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS D TIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS: PLUMBERS REN CES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS, HOTE CIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURT NTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CARPET SHOPS AITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HERE SOLICITORS MIGT TE VALS & STORAGE TAKEAWAYS COMSERVATORIES A S BUILDERS CAR BODY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES L ERS ACCOUNTANTS DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTA TE AGENTS GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS RES TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRA NTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CARPET SHO MITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS N PLUMBERS REMOVALS & STORAGE TAKEAWAYS CEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS BUILDERS CAR BODY R is couriers **accountaints** domestic central hea S MOT TESTING GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLANDED MOBILE TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCK D VATORIES **PUBS** ACCOUNTANTS **CAR BREAKDOWN RECO** NG SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE E AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & STORAGE TAKEA CEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS HOTELS BUILDERS CAR D DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURTERS ACCOUNTANTS PERV CARPET SHOPS ESTATE AGENTS GARAGE SERVI

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RY CARRETSHOPS ESTATE AGENTS GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS FREEMICES, wonder if YOU CAN HELP ?/ COUNTANTS LOCKSMITHS S PLUMBERS 'REI TAXIS HOTELS WATODIES ACCOUNTANTS CAD BREAKTIONIN DECOM

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